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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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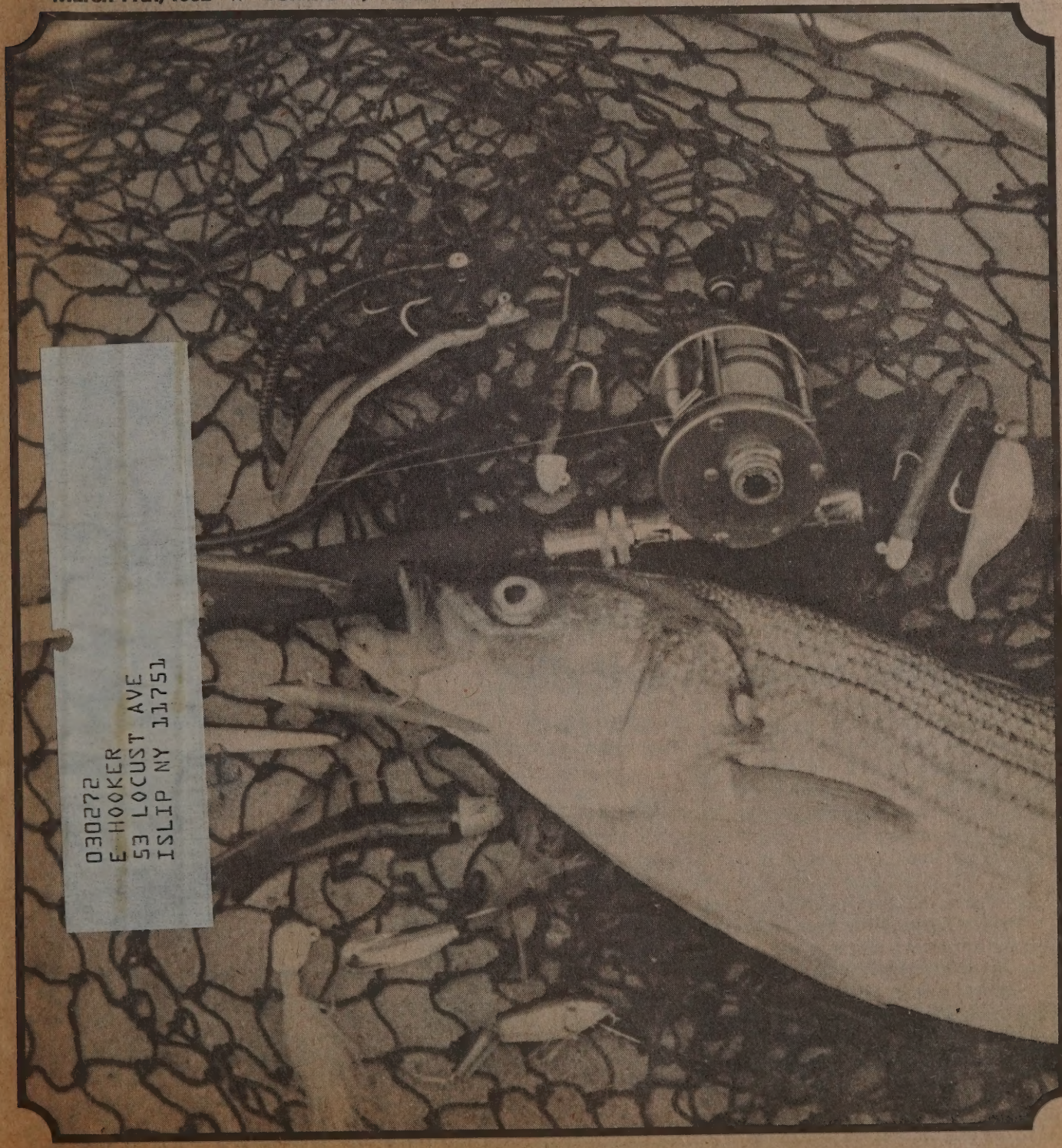
The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

March 11th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 10 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 10 **March 11th, 1982**

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About the Cover—

Soft-bodied lures are making their presence felt on the tackle market. New improvements continue to make them even more effective! See Andy Regina's article, "The Soft Stuff," on page 26. Cover photo by Guy DeBlasio.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **FLOUNDER: EAST & WEST**

Richard Reina PUBLISHER
Al Ristori ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Fred Golofaro EDITOR
Carolyn Brewer ART DIRECTOR
Rich S. Reina PRODUCTION MANAGER

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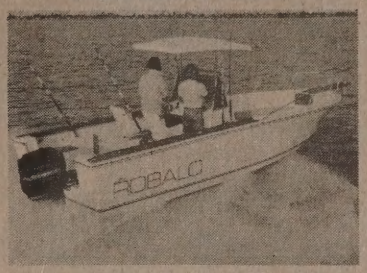

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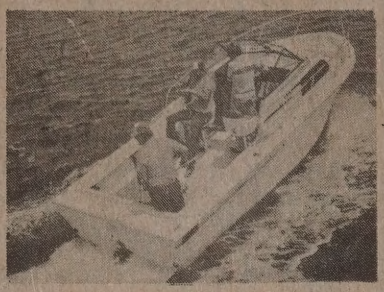

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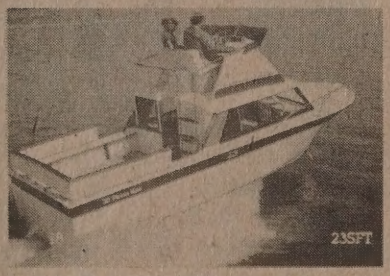

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EDITORIAL

JOIN THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION EFFORT

The regular readers of LIF Editorials are well aware of the process by which a problem is resolved and laws are either passed or defeated. Briefly, LIF digs up the facts, we pursue certain ends through our contacts and influences, we report it here, and then we ask readers for support. The process works well, if one considers our record of success as a meaningful indicator. However, there are occasions when time constraints become serious obstacles. We are a weekly, and that fact alone can interfere with some efforts.

Thus, it should be of interest to you and to us that in the February 11, 1982 issue of LIF, a short item appeared in the Pass It On section. Tom Fitzsimmons of the High Hill Striper Club's Legislative Action Committee has decided to expand this effort to other clubs and organizations. It is his intention to establish a list of clubs and organizations, with an individual from each group who can be easily reached so that items of importance and interest that occur either in a long or short time frame can be supported with maximum vigor. In essence, a telephone chain call can be established so that LIF can reach thousands of concerned people in a matter of a few hours. This will require very little effort from the club representative and the club members, but will return to recreational marine anglers a maximum benefit. We applaud this endeavor and we recommend that you participate. For your convenience, please fill out the following form and mail to:

Mr. Tom Fitzsimmons
12 East Jamaica Avenue
Valley Strea, N.Y. 11580

William C. Muller

PLEASE MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

NAME OF CLUB OR GROUP _____

NAME OF CLUB OR GROUP REPRESENTATIVE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION EFFORT _____

ADDRESS OF REPRESENTATIVE _____ ZIP

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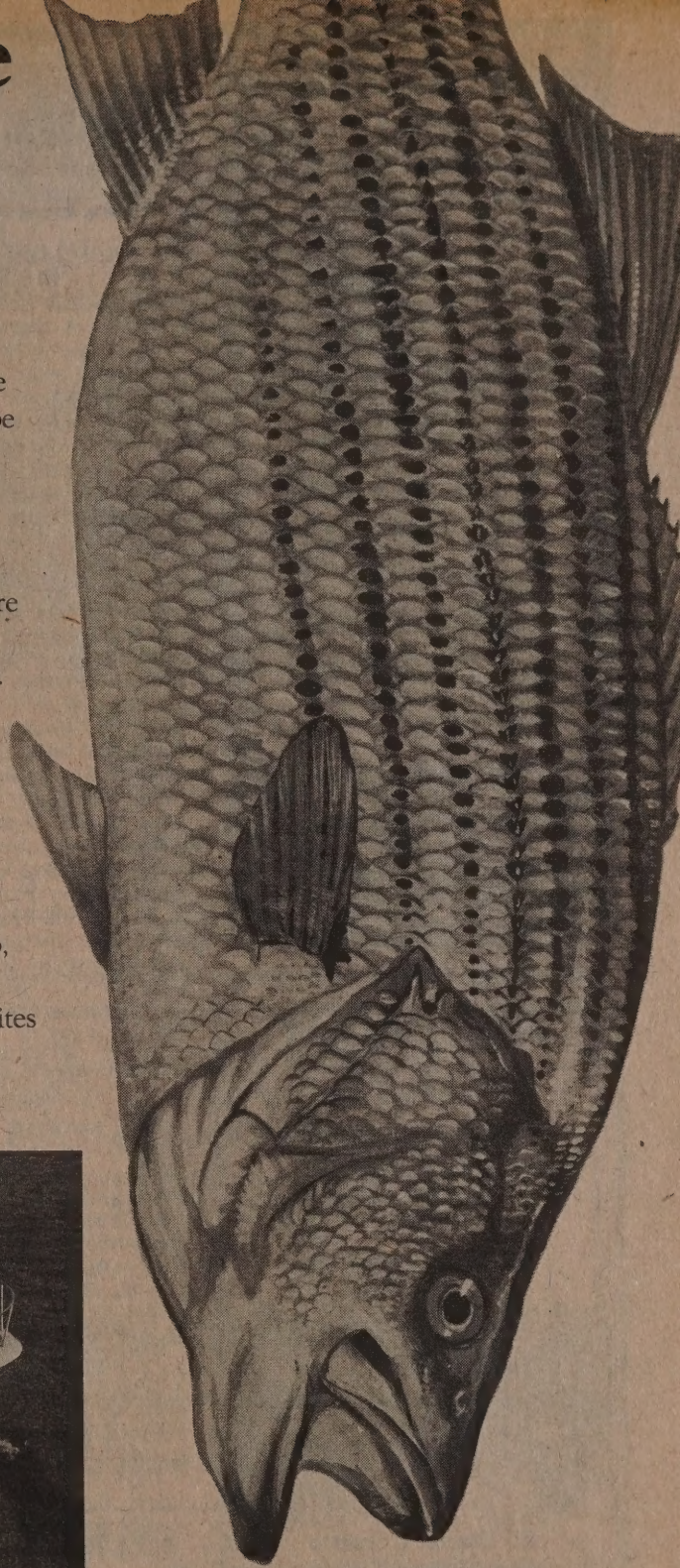

Grady-Whites are designed to make fishing easier and more un. And when your boat makes it easier to go fishing, you'll be ut catching more fish more often.

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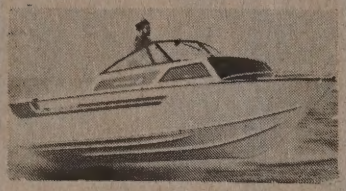

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Daiwa is offering rebates worth up to $90 to charter boat captains who purchase select rods and/or reels from any Daiwa dealer. In addition, skippers will receive priority service on repairs and also get a free parts kit useful for any immediate repairs.

For more information on this special offer, contact Daiwa Rep Lou Rosado at (516) 481-4325.

1ST ANNUAL FREEPORT TUNA CLUB FISHING CLINIC

The Freeport Tuna Club will be holding a 5-session fishing clinic every Monday night, from March 15-April 26, 8PM-10PM. Session will cover: 1; flounder, fluke, weaks; 2) blues and bass; 3) shark; 4) tuna and billfish; 5) rigging offshore baits. The Place: Freeport Recreation Center, Merrick Rd., Freeport. Cost: $25 for the complete course. Pre-registration required at Sea Isle Sports, Freeport. Contact Ron Feuring (516) 868-8855 or (516) 868-8898. All instructional materials will be furnished. Classes will be run by knowledgeable members of F.T.C. and limited to the first 50 to register. Sign up and meet new fishing buddies.

OUTCAST ANGLERS ELECT NEW SLATE

The following officers have been elected by the Outcast Anglers for 1982:

President: Bob Bauman
Vice Pres. Charge of Tourneys: Vic Consiglio
Sec'y: Al Schroeder
Treas.: Harold Katz

The elected Executive Board: Wm. Sorger, Art Greenspan, Lee Meyers.

At their annual dinner dance, the following Anglers received awards as described:

1980 Surf bluefish, Mickey Goldstone, 17.8.

1981 Boat bluefish, Mickey Goldstone, 14 lbs.

1981 Flounder: Al Schroeder, 2.8

1981 Weakfish: Art Greenspan, 8 lbs.

1981 Striped Bass: Lee Meyers, 19.8.

1981 Fluke: Vic Consiglio, 14.8.

In addition, Past President Mickey Goldstone was presented with the Past President's Award.

Through a system of in-club education, and extensive planning, the Anglers look forward to an even greater season in 1982.

The club dues for 1982 will remain the same, and entitles members to participate in business meetings, informational meetings, in-club education classes, tournaments, and charters, as well as receive the monthly publication, **The Dropline**. The Outcast Anglers meet in Bellmore. For further information, contact Al Schroeder, (516) 541-4497.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS TO SPONSOR INTERCLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Atlantis Anglers would like to announce the following dates for their 1982 Interclub Tournaments:

Flounder—April 24 & 25
Weakfish—May 29 & 30
Fluke—July 10 & 11

For information, call Fuzzy Wengler, 546-0965, or write immediately to: Atlantis Anglers, P.O. Box 10, Freeport, New York 11520.

BLUE WATER ANGLERS TOURNEY IN JULY

The Blue Water Anglers are pleased to announce that on July 17, 1982, the 2nd Annual Fishing Tournament sponsored specifically by the Club will be held at Mako Marina.

The Blue Water Anglers Tournament is a non-profit sporting event designed to promote rod and reel angling; encourage good sportsmanship and aid marine science by providing specimens for research and laboratory study.

This tournament is open to all clubs and individuals, both male and female. Entry forms for this year's event can be obtained by calling Mako Marina, (516) 378-7331.

NEW COURSE ON BOATING SAFETY

"Practical Navigation and Boat Management" is the title of a new course offered on Thursday evenings beginning March 18th at Westchester Community College in Valhalla.

The recent tragedy involving the sinking of the Karen E indicates the need for better preparation for boat operators. To address the need, this 20-hour course will include such topics as safety and seamanship, the use of electronic aids, the nautical compass, tides and currents, and the "Rules of the Road."

Tuition is $35 plus a $4 registration fee. For information and a brochure describing the course, contact the Office of Community Services at 347-6830.

STRIPER SURF CLUB RAFFLE WINNER

The winner of the Striper Surf Club's raffle drawing held at the recent L.I. Boat Show is Julio Caceres of Medford. Julio will be receiving a free, 3-year subscription to The Long Island Fisherman as his prize.

LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN LOOKING FOR TOURNEY INFO

Fishing clubs, marinas and other organizations that have fishing contests or tournaments scheduled for the 1982 season are urged to send all info regarding their event, on a postcard, to: **The Fisherman**, P.O. Box 1994, Bridge St., Sag Harbor,

New York 11963.

The Fisherman will begin publishing a listing of these tourneys on a monthly basis just as soon as we acquire a complete listing. Information on postcard should include dates, location, entry deadline, entry fee, nature of prizes, and an address or phone number for further information.

GREG NISITO OF SHAKESPEARE AT MERRICK TACKLE ON SAT.

Greg Nisito, sales representative for Shakespeare Co. will be the next guest specialist in the Fishing Expo '82 Series on Saturday, March 13th. Mr. Nisito will demonstrate Shakespeare fishing tackle and show how to create the exact combination of length, action, guides and trim to provide the sensitivity and responsiveness tailored for the individual fisherman.

The March 13th presentation takes place from 10AM to 4PM, at Merrick Tackle Center, Inc., 2655 Merrick Road, Bellmore, N.Y. Attendance is free.

MERRICK ROD AND GUN ANNOUNCES NEW SLATE

The Merrick Rod & Gun Club held its annual Installation Dinner/Dance on February 27 at the Massapequa American Legion Hall. New Officers for 1982 are as follows:
President: Kevin Meehan
Vice Pres: Gordon Carter
Treasurer: Bob Murphy
Record. Sec'y: Bill Richko
Financial Sec'y: Henry Augustin
Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill Heide
Trustees: Bill Luther, Ron Krynski and Paul Brychcy

TRI-FIN JOINS ALOU

Tri-Fin Lures, popular on Long Island for over a decade, and designed by Mickey Chiarenza, will now be manufactured by the Alou Tackle Mfg. Corp.

"The familiar blue packaging and logo will not be changed," said Mickey. "Service to the consumer will improve due to the larger facilities we now have."

Tri-Fin joins an already popular line of Alou Products—the Alou Eel, BaitTail and Killey. The Lupo Bunker Spoons; a line of custom rods and offshore Gladiator reels.

Mickey's new role will be that of Vice President, chief lure designer and head of production.

FREE FLY TYING DEMO

The Long Island Fly Tyers (LIFT) wishes to invite the general public to attend the fly tying demonstrations by Glen Mikkleson at the Bowery Savings Bank, 5100 Sunrise Highway, Massapequa, N.Y. on March 19th, 8PM-10PM, second floor. Admission is free.

Glen, who was formerly the manager of the Fireside Angler, will demonstrate the tying of some saltwater flies and some bass bugs. He will also give some fly tying tips.

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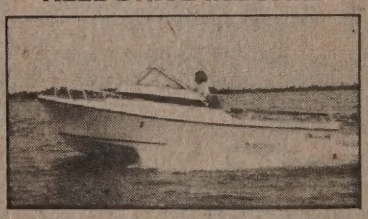

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Loran owners will be happy to learn that there is now a Loran chart available with clearly marked Loran lines and large legible numbers. In addition, courses to and from the inlet are clearly marked in color with reciprocal compass coordinates, the charts are also marked in color at 10 nautical mile intervals. By using the new Quickie Loran Fix chart, one can determine the speed his vessel is travelling over the bottom from one point to another at a glance.

Two types of charts are available for all seven New York inlets. The first is a 24x32 laminated, water and soil resistant chart. It rolls up and is easily stored with a rubber band. The second is 18x18 and made of semi-rigid laminated polyester board. It contains two charts on each polyester board and like the larger roll-up type may be wiped clean with a cloth or paper towel after each use.

The 24x32 laminated roll-up chart sells for $25 and the 18x18 laminated polyester board chart with charts on both sides sells for $50.

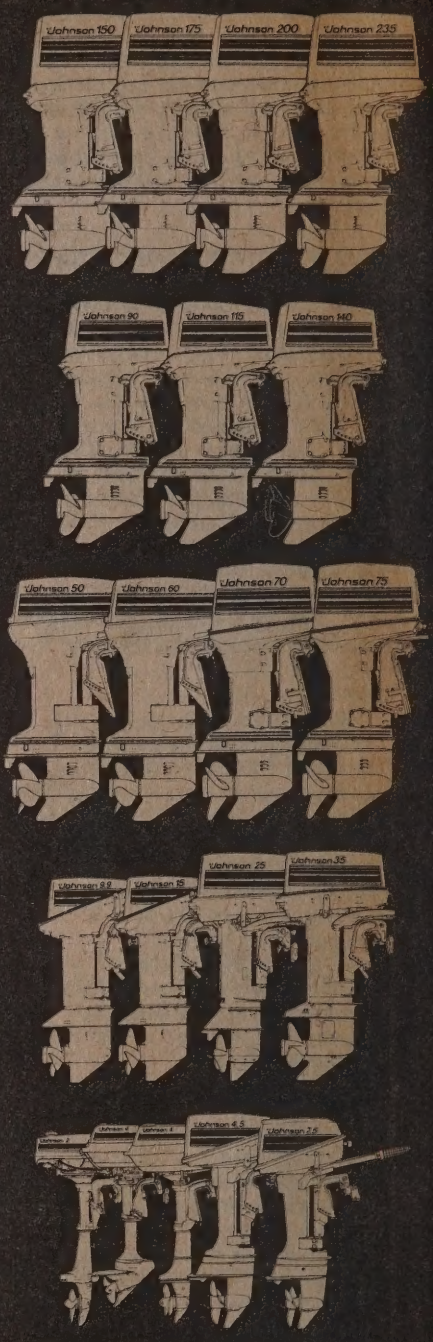
They can be order from the Quickie Loran Fix Company, P.O. Box 707, Hampton Bays, New York 11946. Include $2 for postage and handling, plus N.Y. State sales tax. Specify inlet requested.

BERKLEY'S FLUORESCENT DACRON FISHING LINE

Berkley Dacron has long been a favorite offshore where its low stretch qualities result in harder, quicker hook-setting delivery, and a tighter line over a long-running game fish. Blue water fishermen appreciate the advantage of Berkley Dacron's thin diameter when it comes to reducing water drag and line belly in a fish fighting situation. Now these outstanding features come together with a striking fluorescent green color in a line that's going to keep a lot of 4/0 to 12/0 reel owners busy stripping old line off their reels and re-spooling with Berkley's Medallion Dacron. This high visibility green allows trolled baits to be checked and adjusted at a glance. The angler has more control and more confidence over a hard-fighting game fish.

Berkley's Medallion fluorescent Dacron has got to be the hot color offshore as it joins Medallion Dacron green fleck—already a popular trolling and casting line in fresh and salt water.

For more information, write: Berkley & Co., Trilene Drive, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.



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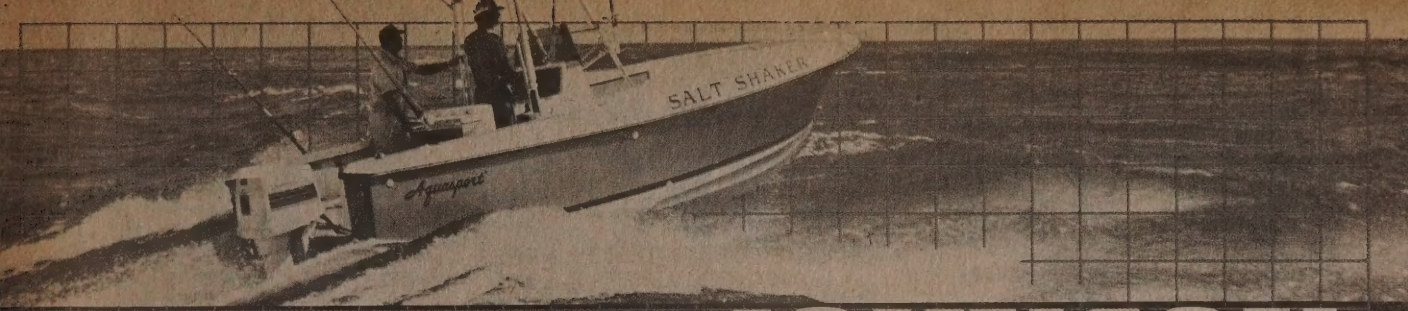
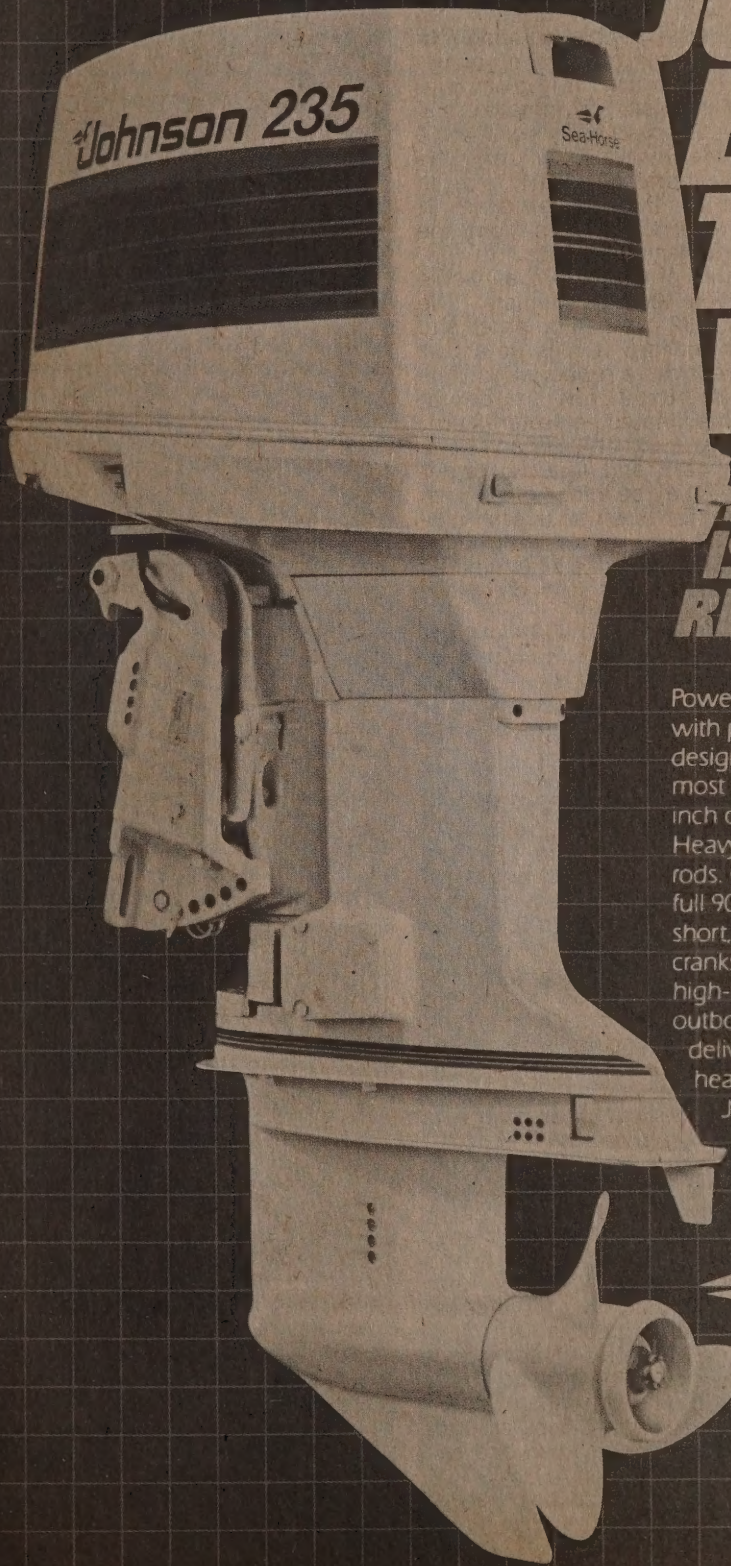
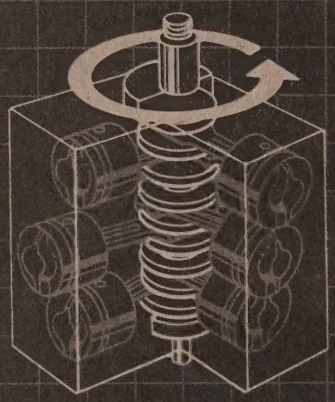


JOHNSON LEADS THE WORLD



HIGH-TECH TORQUE IS JUST ONE OF THE REASONS



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SPRING FLOUNDER TIPS

by Matt Ahern

The "King of the Sinker Bouncers" offers his views on spring flatfishing.

With just two of us aboard our rental skiff, my old ten-horse pushed through Island Park's Reynold's Channel at a good clip. At the bow, unmindful of the cold March spray, sat my long-time fishing buddy Nick Hauck. Our destination: the mud flats inshore of buoy #9.

As we approached the buoy, I turned the skiff north, which brought us over an area of gooey mud bottom. I cut our speed, and then after a bit of maneuvering, shut off the engine. After much planning, we felt that this particular spot would produce our first flounder action of the year. With an incoming tide barely an hour old and 15' of water under us, past experience had proved that this was an ideal place to try. If fish were to be found, we would find them there.

Nick lowered the anchor while I upended a pint jar of freshly-shucked bank mussels onto the bait board. Impaling a bait on each of our two hooks, we sent them to the bottom.

As usual, it took but five minutes for Nick to set his hook into our first flounder. Battling against a light spinning rod, a 1 oz. sinker and 4 lb. test mono, the fish zipped around with short, rod-bending spurts, ruggedly displaying every intention of staying on bottom. Up it came, a mud-streaked half pound flattie. Our first fish of the year!

Moments later, I reeled in a bit of slack, lifted cautiously and felt the weight of a fish. I set the hook with a quick, short lift of the rod tip. As Nick's flounder had done, this one bounced and zipped, and strove desperately to regain the safety of the bottom. It, too, came up mud-streaked, a twin to its companion in the bucket.

We caught several more flounder during the next half-hour, all about the same size. Then came the expected lull. We realized that we had probably caught what flounder were in the immediate vicinity. We then decided that now was the time to either pull anchor or stay put and chum with our whole bank mussels. In March this can be a ticklish decision; so I left it up to Nick who certainly knows more about flounder fishing that I can ever hope to.

We cracked several handfuls of whole mussel underfoot and scattered them close to the boat. Within ten minutes, I knew he had made the right decision. The fish began to respond and from time to time, one of us would pull up a double-header. To further prove that Nick had guessed correctly, few of these flounder were mud-streaked. Free-swimming, they had been attracted to our mussel chum, which, in turn, signified to us (with April close at hand) flounder fishing would soon be in full swing throughout every bay, cove, and creek on Long Island.

We fished the remainder of the incoming tide, picking away at the fish, soon discovering that as long as we kept the chum going, we had action. If we skimped on the chum, the fishing came to a grinding halt. We caught fish only when the chum was continuously available.

When the tide changed and began to drop, the fish gradually stopped biting and no amount of chum could get them started again. We left with 36 keepers, none of which was over a pound.

From the foregoing, one can readily see the average flounder isn't big. Unless the fisherman has his sights set on the large snowshoes available out east in May, there isn't much sport involved when using heavy tackle.

In the selection of a proper rod, the flounder fisherman has two types from which to choose. This can be either a light conventional bay rod, or a light spinning rod. For my money, nothing can beat a light spinning outfit for flounder fishing. Because it is extremely sensitive to the bite of the most wary flounder, a spinning rod often makes the difference between a good catch and one which leaves much to be desired.

With such a light spinning rod, I've found it best to use a small bank sinker, say from 1 to 2 oz., depending upon current strength. But if you're fishing an area where 3 or 4 oz. sinkers are demanded, be advised to use a medium-weight conventional bay rod. There is no point in using a

The author with a couple of big flatties taken on light spinning tackle.

spinning rod under these conditions as its purpose is defeated. Actually, should you find these heavy-sinker conditions exist in your fishing area, I think it advisable to seek your flounder elsewhere. Flounder fishing is always best where currents are slow-moving. Makes for easier fishing, too.

When using a light spinning outfit, a matching open-faced spinning reel filled with 4 to 6 lb. test monofilament is ideal. This thin line enables the fisherman to use those light sinkers without a bit of difficulty. When fishing with a medium-weight bay rod, 10 lb. test line will get by. But I wouldn't use line heavier than this, because when you do, you'll find sinker weight must be increased to combat the current.

Hooks are no problem when flounder fishing: the common Chestertown in sizes 9 or 10 is standard. Later in the season, however, as the water warms, flounder will often peck at the bait with rapid-fire nips. It is then when regular shanked #6 Sproats work miracles. I'll tell you about these at the conclusion of this article.

Because flounder are strictly bottom feeders, hooks not there get few fish. The best way to make sure they are on the bottom is to tandem-tie two hooks and attach them to the main line about two inches above the sinker. If you find you are having tangling difficulties, especially when casting, simply use a sinker snap (or a large snap swivel) and place both rig and sinker together.

Tandem-tying is easily accomplished by bending the snell of one at its middle and passing this bend through the loop of the second hook. This second hook is then inserted through the bend, pulled tightly, and secured with an overhand knot. Be sure to do this last bit—one hook will ride down the snell of the other if you don't.

Shun the flounder spreader! These abominations offer little for the serious flounder fisherman. They foul on the slightest obstruction and gather copious amounts of weed and debris. They are also insensitive to the cautious bite of large flounder, often causing these fish to drop the bait when the spreader's weight is felt. Use that tandem rig and catch fish!

Bait is seldom a problem. Blood and sand worms have always been popular and most fishermen use them with good results. Blood worms probably have the edge along Long Island's South Shore.

No matter which is chosen, each should be cut into 1½'' lengths and placed on the hook so that the barb is exposed at least a quarter inch from the end. Doing this allows a small, attractive piece of worm to trail on bottom. **Don't** bunch bait on your hooks! It not only gives an unnatural appearance, but will only attract small fish. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Veteran flounder fishermen use other baits besides worm: fresh

The banks of the Shinnecock Canal offer prime early season flounder action.

skimmer, soft and hard clam, and of course, the lowly bank mussel. Clam should be sliced into narrow, thin 1½'' pieces, and once again, the barb should be allowed to protrude as with worm baits. When using soft clams (steamers), use the ''neck'' by trimming away the black skin and cutting lengthwise into two or more pieces. (With the possible exception of fresh bank mussel, I have caught more flounder on soft clam than with any other.)

There's one problem with mussel: keeping it on the hook can be a nuisance. However, if you weave your hook through the bait several times and wrap some around the shank, it will help. Flounder love this soft bait (especially in spring) and it is well worth the trouble to use.

At times flounder will refuse a bait after greedily accepting it for several hours. Because of this, wise fishermen bring along at least two different baits. Often the simple act of changing from worm to clam, or vice-versa, will keep the fish in a biting mood.

Flounder are extremely curious. Often pounding the bottom with a weight, or bouncing the sinker in the soft mud a few times, will draw fish to the baited hook. When we were kids, we used to filch pebbles and blue stone from the neighborhood gas station and dribble them directly under the boat, a handful at a time. Worked fine. Often, tossing handfuls of clam or oyster shell, or the scattering of beach sand into a slow-moving current will bring the fish around.

Remember, fish activity is governed by water temperature, so fish the deeper spots in early season, even if you must go down 30'. When the fish are free-swimming and on the move, look for them on sun-drenched flats—but not before.

I mentioned #6 Sproats. I don't think I've ever written a flounder fishing article during the past ten years without doing so. And as true as the day follows the night, fellows will write and tell me they can't find them in tackle shops. Okay. If you're interested, here's what you do.

Request a free catalog from Midland Tackle Company, 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974. They list these hooks—100 to a box. You'll have to snell these hooks yourself; but don't fret. It's easy to do. Midland also offers hook-tying leader material.

If you don't know how to snell hooks, send me a stamped, self-addressed business envelope (4x9'') and I'll send you a free copy of DuPont's excellent knot-tying booklet. You'll find in it two easy ways to snell your own hooks, along with explicit drawings. Can't miss; plus many other knots fishermen should know. Send your request to my home: 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946—not to the office as this will only cause unnecessary delay and expense. I'll get it right off to you.

Now...go get those fish!

WALK ON WOOD: The Jones Beach Piers

by John V. Konior

Just a short ride from the "Big Apple," these piers provide a varied menu throughout most of the season.

For the life of me I can't remember when the Jones Beach fishing piers were first built, but I do remember fishing from them back in 1956 or thereabouts. The piers were built as part of the late Robert Moses' grand scheme to upgrade state park facilities for all. It was, so to speak, a trade-off because up until their construction, fishing had been permitted off and around the many bridges connecting the mainland to Jones Beach. As to whether the trade-off was equitable is a moot point; but I often speculate as to why runway piers couldn't have been constructed along the bridges such as found in the Florida Keys. Oh well!

One fact that is certain is that the Jones Beach piers were at least built with the angler in mind. The piers extend out into the water across the current, permitting fishing from both sides of the pier and in line with the current flow. This is a far better situation when compared with the fishing piers out at Captree, Robert Moses State Park and Point Lookout where the piers were erected parallel to the shore line.

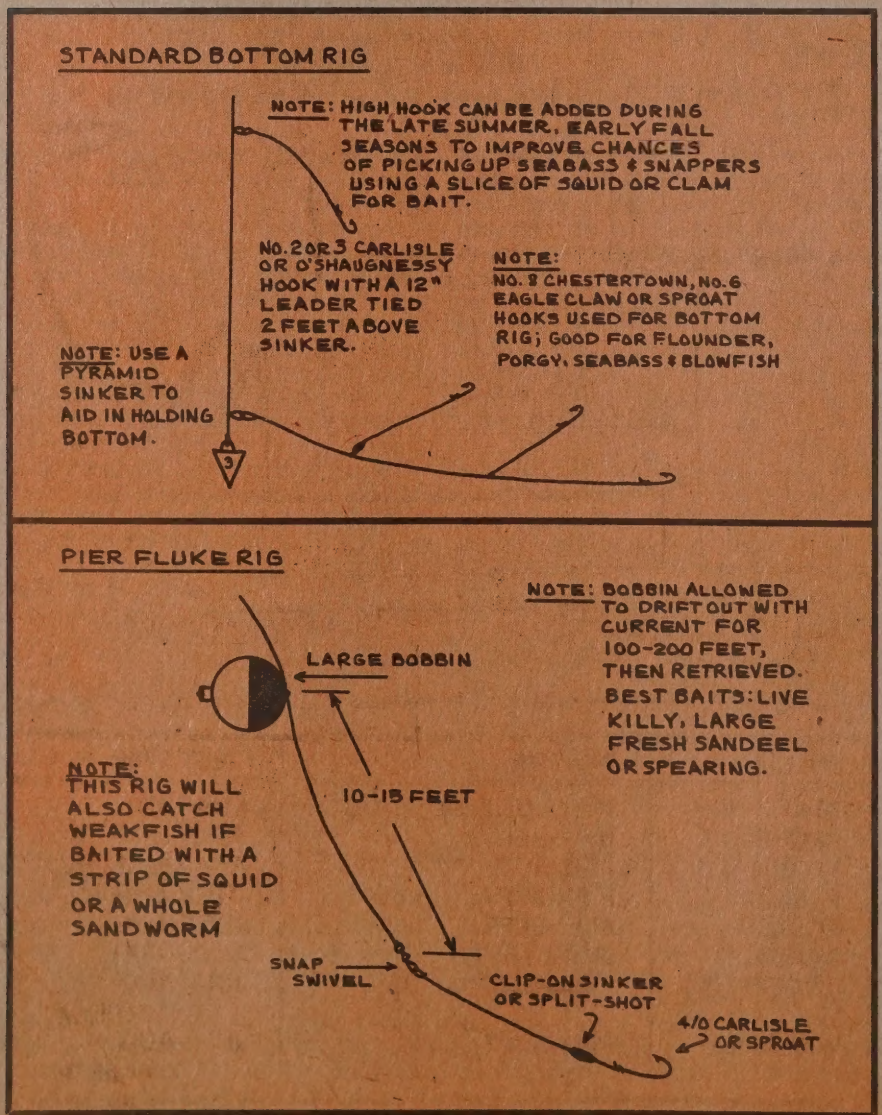
Aside from second guessing, it's also quite true that the Jones Beach piers do provide some fine fishing at times, plus excellent personal facilities for individual and family alike.

The piers adjoin a large parking lot, clean rest rooms, a cafeteria (with vending machines and regular counter service), and a bait and tackle shack. Limited fish cleaning platforms are also provided. They are open all year. However, they close at sunset through dawn except to those anglers possessing a night fishing permit. The permit is obtainable free of charge from the Long Island State Park Commission office at Belmont Lake State Park or at Robert Moses State Park. All you require is a valid auto registration, and you must display the permit on your car windshield at all times at night.

Parking fees ($2) are levied from Memorial Day through Labor Day, at the parking lot. You can avoid them by arriving before 8AM or after 5PM. The rest rooms are open year-round, as are the vending machines with the cafeteria open during the day from Memorial Day through Labor Day, or thereabouts. The bait shack is open from April through mid-November. Limit yourself to only one rod while on the piers and no overhead casting is permitted for obvious reasons.

So much for the background. Going back in memory I can recall some really fine fishing for such species as flounder, blowfish and porgies. It wasn't unusual back in the late 50s, early 60s, to fill a pail with fish. However, with fishing pressure what it is today individual catches have gone down, but the fish are still there to be caught.

It's a rare occasion when I've visited the piers that some people were not fishing, regardless of time of day or year. The piers are frequented by a group of old-timers who really know their business. You have to get up quite early in the morning to beat them out of their spots. The piers also get crowded when there's a run of fish on, again regardless of time of day or year, and progressively so when the


STANDARD BOTTOM RIG
NOTE: HIGH HOOK CAN BE ADDED DURING THE LATE SUMMER, EARLY FALL SEASONS TO IMPROVE CHANCES OF PICKING UP SEABASS & SNAPPERS USING A SLICE OF SQUID OR CLAM FOR BAIT.
NO. 2 OR 3 CARLISLE OR O'SHAUGNESSY HOOK WITH A 12" LEADER TIED 2 FEET ABOVE SINKER.
NOTE: NO. 8 CHESTERTOWN, NO. 6 EAGLE CLAW OR SPROAT HOOKS USED FOR BOTTOM RIG; GOOD FOR FLOUNDER, PORGY, SEABASS & BLOWFISH
NOTE: USE A PYRAMID SINKER TO AID IN HOLDING BOTTOM.
PIER FLUKE RIG
NOTE: BOBBIN ALLOWED TO DRIFT OUT WITH CURRENT FOR 100-200 FEET, THEN RETRIEVED. BEST BAITS: LIVE KILLY, LARGE FRESH SANDEEL OR SPEARING.
LARGE BOBBIN
NOTE: THIS RIG WILL ALSO CATCH WEAKFISH IF BAITED WITH A STRIP OF SQUID OR A WHOLE SANDWORM
10-15 FEET
SNAP SWIVEL
CLIP-ON SINKER OR SPLIT-SHOT
4/0 CARLISLE OR SPROAT

weather warms up.

And you will catch fish. I've caught or seen caught, flounder, fluke, blowfish, blacks, sea bass, porgy, eels and weakfish. I would have to say, however, that your best bet is flounder which are caught there from as early as February right into December, depending on weather.

For your guidance, refer to the chart I've prepared at the bottom of this page.

I won't belabor the point much, but I believe it's worthwhile to discuss several things. It's not really not necessary to cast far from the piers to catch fish. Many fish, such as flounder, blowfish, and especially blackfish are caught within 10-20 ft. of the piers, and even among the pilings. Since overhand casting is not permitted you can use a light to medium action conventional outfit with 20-30 lb. test mono. I prefer a medium action, spinning outfit using a 7' rod, and a reel loaded with 15 lb. test mono. The spinning reel also permits easy underhand casting.

When fishing for fluke, the old pros have had a great deal of success in using a large bobbin, attached 10-15 above the hook with a split shot sinker fastened near the hook to keep the bait down. The line is released at the edge of the pier and allowed to drift out with the current, using live killies or fresh spearing for bait. After the line drifts out 100-200 feet, it is retrieved and let out again, etc.

When fishing for blacks, use green or fiddler crabs for bait and fish right among the pilings. For flounder, porgy and sea bass use worms or clam (preferably fresh skimmers). Fresh spearing are always great for snappers.

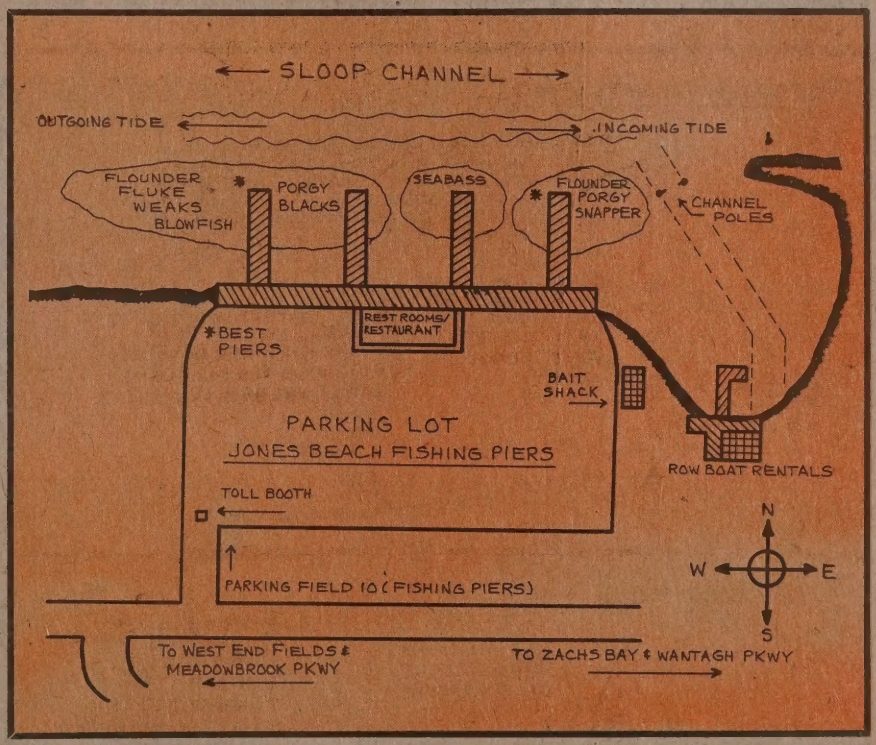
There are four piers. In my opinion you'll get the best results by fishing from either end pier, with the westernmost pier the best overall. It's a toss-up with regard to the middle-two piers. You'll get most of your action by fishing towards the far end of any pier you choose, but I've caught fish anywhere from 1/3 on out to the end of the piers.

I especially like the westernmost pier on an outgoing tide. There's some deep water to the west of the pier (towards the Meadowbrook bridge) and the area around it has extensive mussel beds. It's not at all unusual to find a host of boats fishing a couple of hundred feet west of the pier.

In addition to fishing, there's considerable crab netting that is done. I've witnessed very good catches of rock crab in the spring and late fall, with fair success for blue claws during the summer. There's even those who enjoy taking the pesty calico crabs, which are ever in abundance from spring until fall.

So, if you're into mingling and enjoying some good company and conversation while picking up some fish in relative comfort, then by all means give the Jones Beach piers a try. I don't think you will be sorry.

The piers stand barren on a blustery winter day.



SPECIES	SEASON	BEST TIME
BLACKFISH	MAY-JUNE, SEPT.-OCT.	MAY, OCT.
BLOWFISH	MAY-SEPT.	JUNE, AUG.
FLOUNDER	FEB.-JULY, SEPT.-DEC.	APR.-JUNE, OCT.
FLUKE	MAY-SEPT.	JUNE-AUG.
PORGY	MAY-SEPT.	JUNE-AUG.
SEABASS	JUNE-SEPT.	AUG.-SEPT.
SNAPPERS	JULY-SEPT.	JULY-AUG. (best at night)
WEAKFISH	MAY-SEPT.	JULY-AUG. (best at night)

ON THE MARKET:

WHAT'S NEW IN REELS

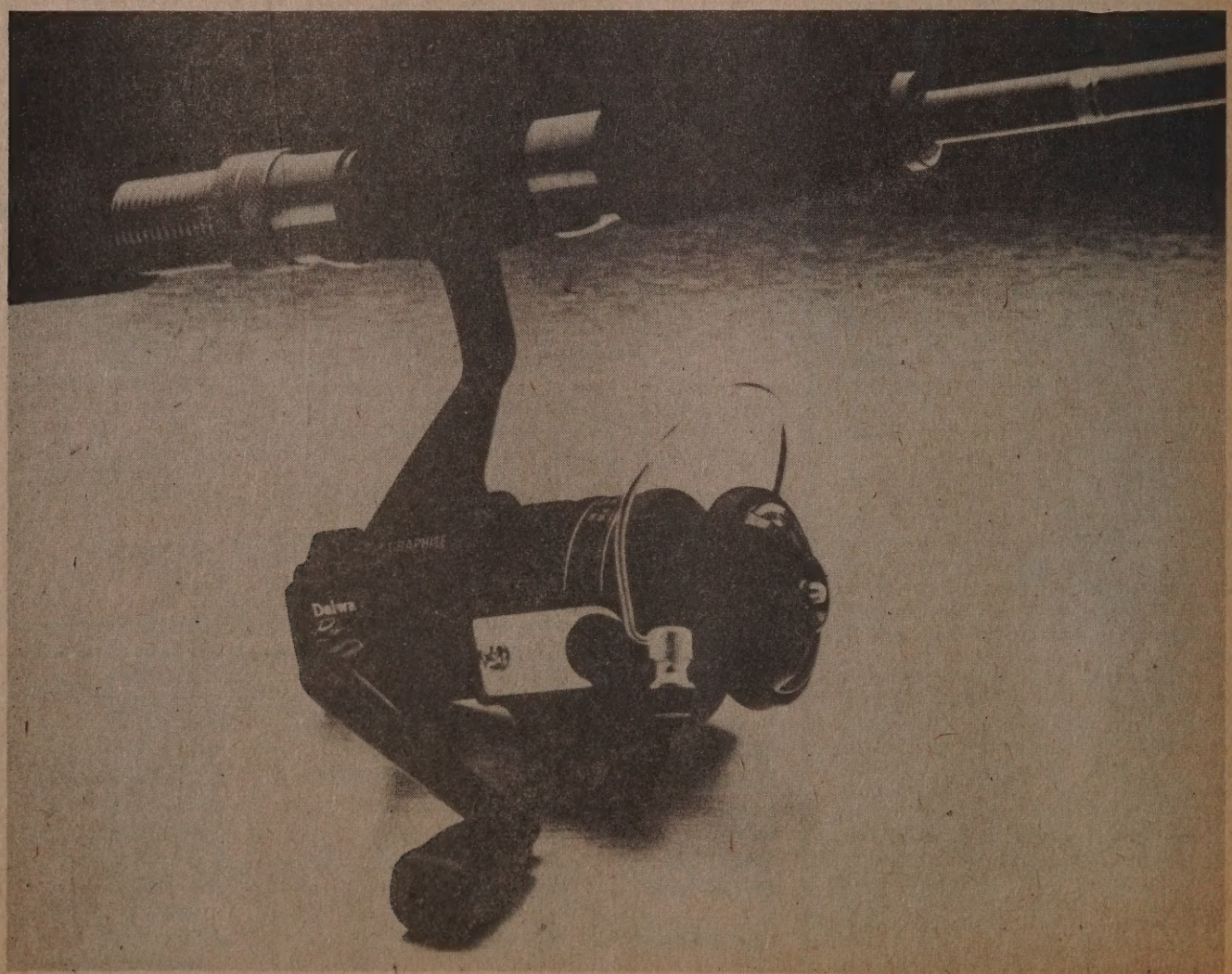
Part One — *by Al Ristori*

Looking back on my early years as a fisherman in the postwar era, I can truly appreciate the strides that have been made by the tackle industry in creating rugged and dependable reels that make casting a snap for even a beginner. I got started just before spinning reels, and for years assumed that a backlash on every other cast was just standard operating procedure. Unfortunately, I had no one to teach me the fine art of casting with a conventional reel—and it took a long time for my thumb to get burnt into the semi-educated category.

Spinning changed all that, though many of the pros still preferred the smoother drags and greater control provided by revoling spool reels. However, few beginners were willing to accept the challenge of learning to use conventionals for casting and spinners have pretty much taken over that area in saltwater. Yet, there have been some signs of resurgence on the part of revolving spool reels. With experts like Montauk skipper John DeMaio showing the way, baitcasting reels have made a significant comeback in the briny. The finely-tuned Garcia Ambassadeurs first provided almost backlash-free casting and many other companies have produced baitcasters of comparable quality in recent years. Now there's a magnetic force system available which should make casting a snap even for the first-timer.

The big attraction at last summer's American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association Show in Atlanta was the introduction of magnetic force reels by both Daiwa and Penn. To confuse matters further, the Daiwa baitcasters were called Magforce reels, while the Penn conventionals were labeled the Mag Force series. Fortunately, Penn changed their name to Mag Power and there's now a little more distinction between the new products.

Actually, there's a great deal of difference in the size of the reels and even in the way they operate—though the principle is the same in both cases. Daiwa is producing only a couple of small baitcasting reels, but



New Daiwa Procaster Graphite PC-13 spinning reel.

it's likely that they will carry this system into larger casting reels in the near future. I used one of these reels, the Procaster-Lite PMF81500, this fall and did pick out a few backlashes. However, they occurred as I was trying to determine at just what setting I could cast without backlashing—even without thumbing. At the lowest settings this reel performs as a fine baitcaster, providing long casts with a minimum of thumb control. Less thumb control is needed as you increase the setting, although the distance achieved drops in proportion. You soon reach a point at which it is literally impossible to backlash with no thumbing at all—even at the moment when the lure enters the water. Of course, your casting distance suffers at that setting, but Daiwa staffers report 100' casts with 5/8 oz. casting plugs—more than enough for most freshwater bass fishing situations.

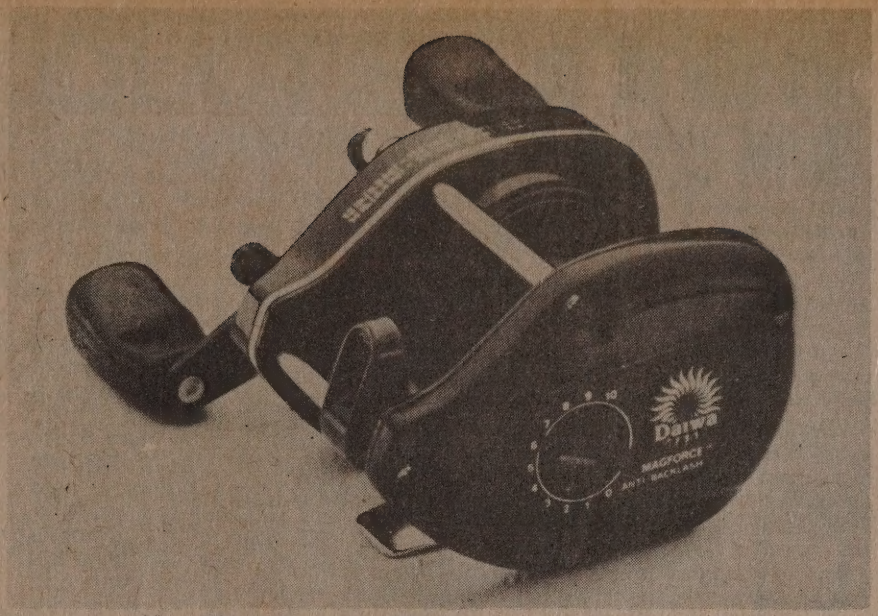
The Daiwa Magforce system basically consists of two sets of lifetime magnets opposing each other in a concentric manner. An elongated flange on the spool of the reel revolves between the opposing sets of magnets. When the spool revolves, a flow of electrons is set up in the aluminum which serves as a conductor. This miniscule electrical current dissipates itself in the metal, creating resistance. Rotational kinetic energy is magnetically converted to electrical energy and then dissipated. The faster the spool turns, and the more directly opposed the magnets, the more resistance is created, and the rate at which the spool revolves is governed.

One of the advantages of this system is that there is no need to adjust spool tension. Since the magnetic system does all the work in controlling the cast, the spool is adjusted without tension and turns as fast as it can without side play. The PMF-1500 weighs only 8.6 oz., but holds 140 yds. of 10 lb. The narrow-spool PMF-1000 weighs 8.3 oz. and holds 125 yds. of the same line. Retail prices should be under $100.

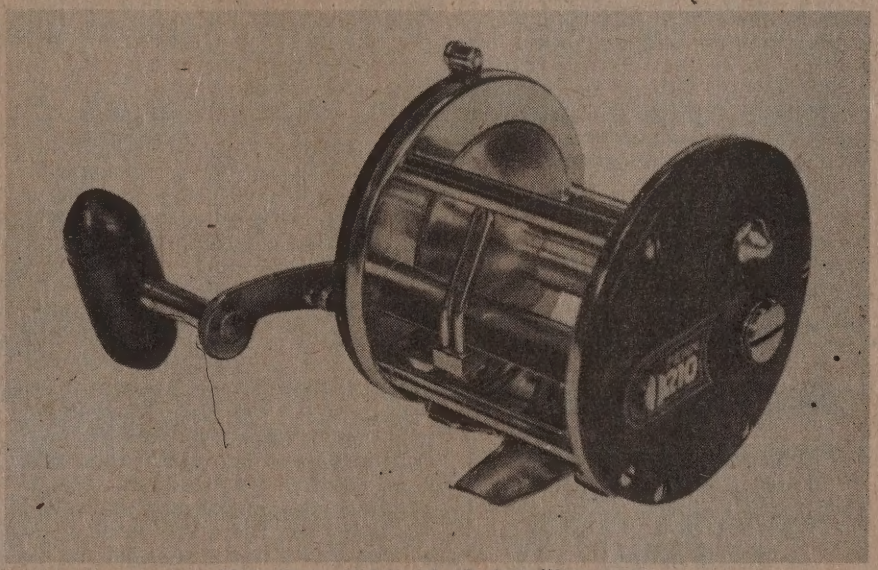
The Penn Mag Power system has been designed into a couple of Squidder-size reels. While the principle is the same, the Penn reels use only a single magnet and the adjustment is with a slotted screw rather than a dial. Penn also provides an adjustable bearing to control the spool in the course of letting out line, dropping bait, etc. The Mag Power 970 weighs 20 oz. and holds 275 yards of 20 lb. mono. The Mag Power 980 weighs just one ounce more, but takes 400 yards of 20 lb. mono on its wide spool. Both new models feature fast 4¼-1 gear ratios.

While the magnetic reels hold the spotlite this year, there are quite a few other new models around. Daiwa continues to expand their baitcasting line, adding not only the two new Magforce models, but also two ultra-light Millionaires. The latter

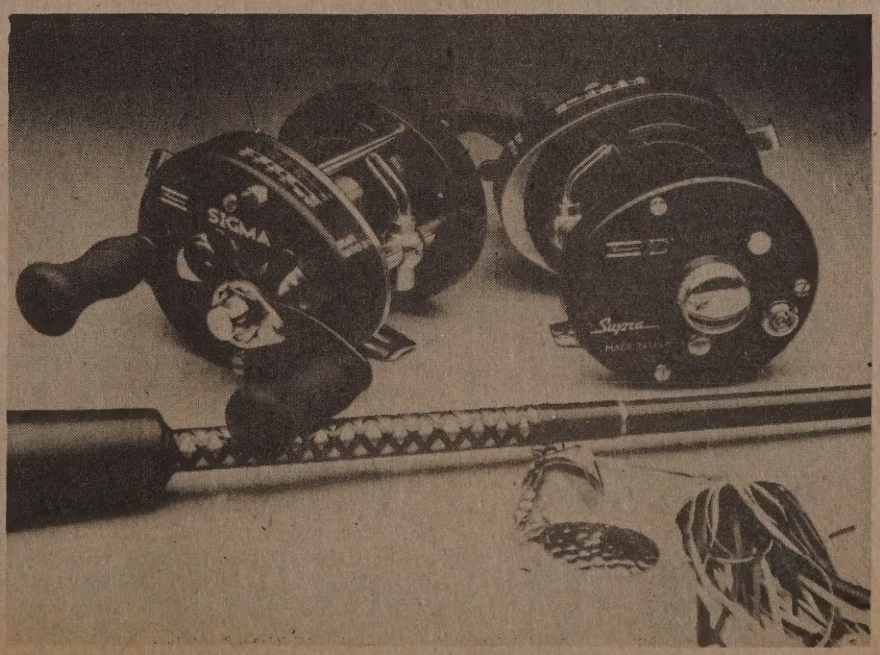
(Continued on next page.)



New Daiwa Procaster-Lite Magforce baitcasting reel.



New Penn 210 level wind trolling reel.



New Shakespeare Sigma Supra baitcasting reels.

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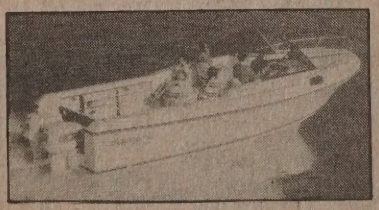

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reels are truly tiny, and are designed to handle lines as light as 4 lb. The MM-1000 weighs just 7.1 oz. and takes 90 yards of 6 lb. The MM-2000 weighs all of 7.4 oz. and holds 100 yards of 8 lb. Both have 4.5-1 gear ratios. The more expensive Procaster series has four new models, including 6.3 oz. ultra-lights with either stainless steel ball bearings or graphite composite bushings.

The Daiwa Sealine series remains intact, but a new model has been added in the form of the 910. This is actually the same reel as the standard 910H 9/0 size reel, but it features a new power handle with a long grip. This handle was made for deep water bottom fishing off the California Coast, but may be of interest to area tilefishermen. Daiwa's big move in spinning has been into a graphite reel. The spool, body and rotor are made of tough, lightweight and corrosion-proof graphite composite; this may be a preview of what's to come in the future. The single Procaster Graphite weighs only 8.5 oz., takes 100 yards of 12 lb., has a 5.1-1 gear ratio, and features a stainless steel ball bearing drive. The price range of the PC-13 should be around $70-$75. The new Regal Silver series features four silver models with internal bail trip as well as a stainless steel ball bearing drive. Also new is a low-end Jupiter series of quite good quality for beginners.

Penn is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with the Mag Power reels, but is also introducing the new 210 series. These reels were made primarily for the Great Lakes salmon trolling market, but should also enjoy good sales in saltwater areas. All four models feature 4-1 gear ratios and level winds. The 210MS has a stainless steel spool and saltwater reel seat—and holds 350 yards of 20 lb. The 210LS has a die-cast aluminum spool and saltwater stand. There are two similar models with freshwater stands.

The Gladiator big game reels from Italy have been around for awhile, but they are getting a new breath of life in the States under the distributorship of Alou Tackle Manufacturing Co. A complete range of lever drag models is available from 2½/0 to 14/0. All are gold with blue side plates, have main parts made of aluminum alloy and stainless steel, machine-cut gears, a special patented drag system, and five stainless steel ball bearings. Price-wise, the Gladiators will fit in-between the Fin-Nors and Penn Internationals. Alou will be selling them through tackle shops which will carry parts and provide service. A list of dealers can be obtained by contacting Alou Tackle at 170-3 Central Avenue, Farmingdale, New York 11735.

Ryobi has expanded the virtually backlash-proof AD baitcasting reel series to five models. These reels all feature the unique "V" spool introduced last year. Ryobi also has a new EX series of skirted spool spinning reels, plus additions to the top-rated Dyna Fight "no-twist" spinning series. Johnson Reels is featuring a new Freedom series of spincasting reels which feature a no line twist drag system, ceramic pick-up pin and line guide, and come filled with Stren. Pflueger has a new series of skirted spool Gold Medalist spinning reels with high gear ratios, plus a couple of new spincasters: the 302 and 304.

Shakespeare is taking just a little breather from its massive introduction of new models during last year's Sigma explosion. However, there are still quite a few new models to look over. The Sigma Supra series has been expanded with the addition of the intermediate 2500-060. Just right for saltwater, the new Sigma Supra holds 230 yards of 15 lb., weighs 17.6 oz. and has a 4.4-1 gear ratio. Like the other Sigma Supras it has Selective Internal Trip, two semi-sealed stainless steel ball bearings, and stern-mounted drag. The less-expensive Sigma series now includes the new ultra-light 2200-025 which weighs only 5.4 oz., holds 160 yards of 4 lb. and has a 4.4-1 gear ratio. The Sigma 025 features a silent anti-reverse, stainless steel ball bearing and Selective Internal Trip. Topping the Sigma baitcasting line are two new Supra models. The 2900-080 has a 5-1 gear ratio, weighs 11.5 oz. and carries 200 yards of 15 lb. The 2900-084 takes 240 yards of 15 lb., weighs 12 oz., and has a 4-1 gear ratio. These reels feature two shielded ball bearings, and the 084 has a clicker.

Something really new for Shakespeare is the Sigma trolling series. Two conventional reels have been brought in from Europe for trolling and bottom fishing. Both feature level winds, 3-1 gear ratios, and stainless steel sideplates, spool and handle. The 2950-245 weighs 13 oz. and holds 220 yards of 20 lb. The 2950-350 weighs 17 oz. and takes 400 yards of 20 lb. Fly fishermen will be happy to see the Speedex and Beaulite reels made by J.W. Young Company of England, a Shakespeare subsidiary. There are two Speedex multipliers (2-1 gear ratios) with adjustable drags, and four, single-action Beaulites. The largest Beaulite, the 2816, will take #9 line plus 275 yards of backing.

There's also some change in Shakespeare's lower priced lines. The Alpha series represents fine quality at a modest cost, and a new saltwater spinner was added this year. The 2100-070 weighs 21 oz., carries 190 yards of 20 lb., and has a 4.2-1 gear ratio. Like the other Alphas, it features a ball bearing on the spool shaft and Selective Internal Trip. The new Alpha 1981 and 1982 baitcasters sport 5-1 gear ratios. Even lower-priced, but representing a good buy for beginners is the new Omni series. There are three light spinning reels (the 2000-040 is the best bet with 4.6-1 gear ratio, Selective Internal Trip, line roller, and capacity of 200 yards of 10 lb.) and three spincasters.

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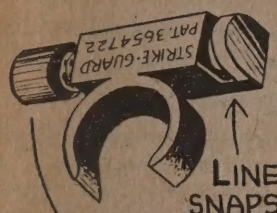

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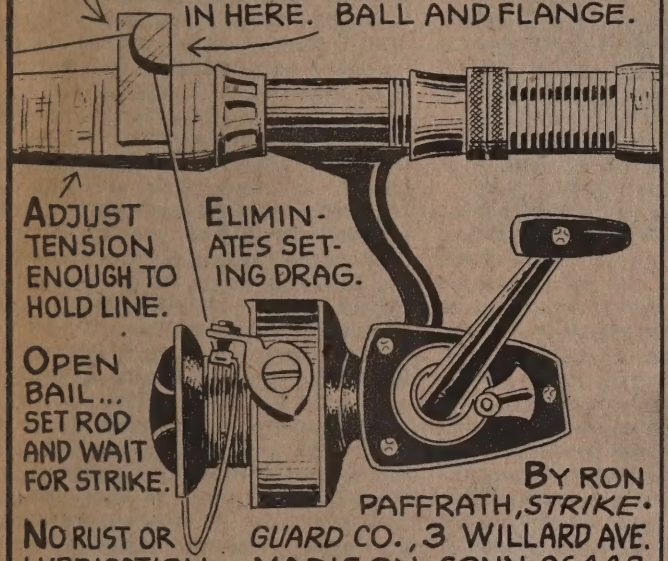

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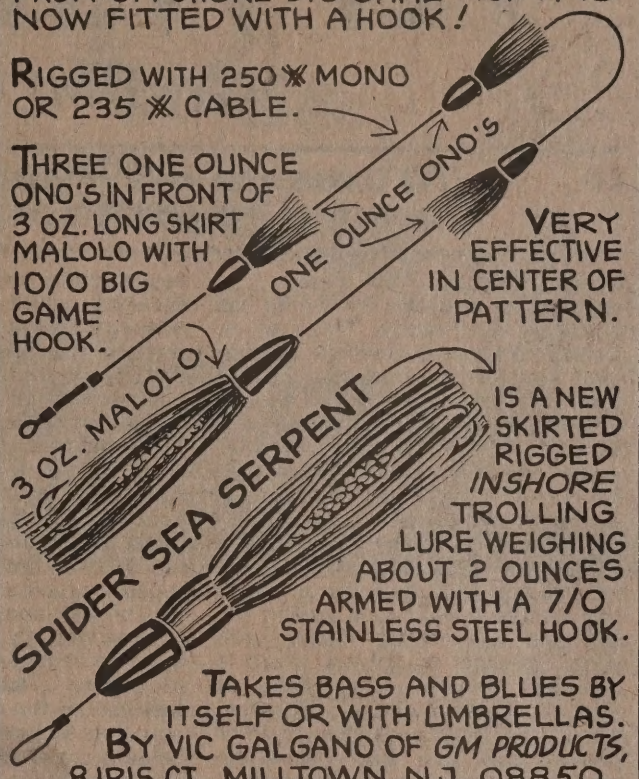

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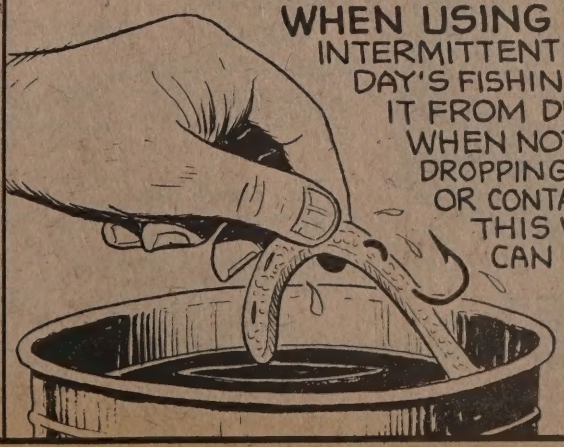


BY FRED GUARDINEER

PORTABLE FLY TYING BENCH

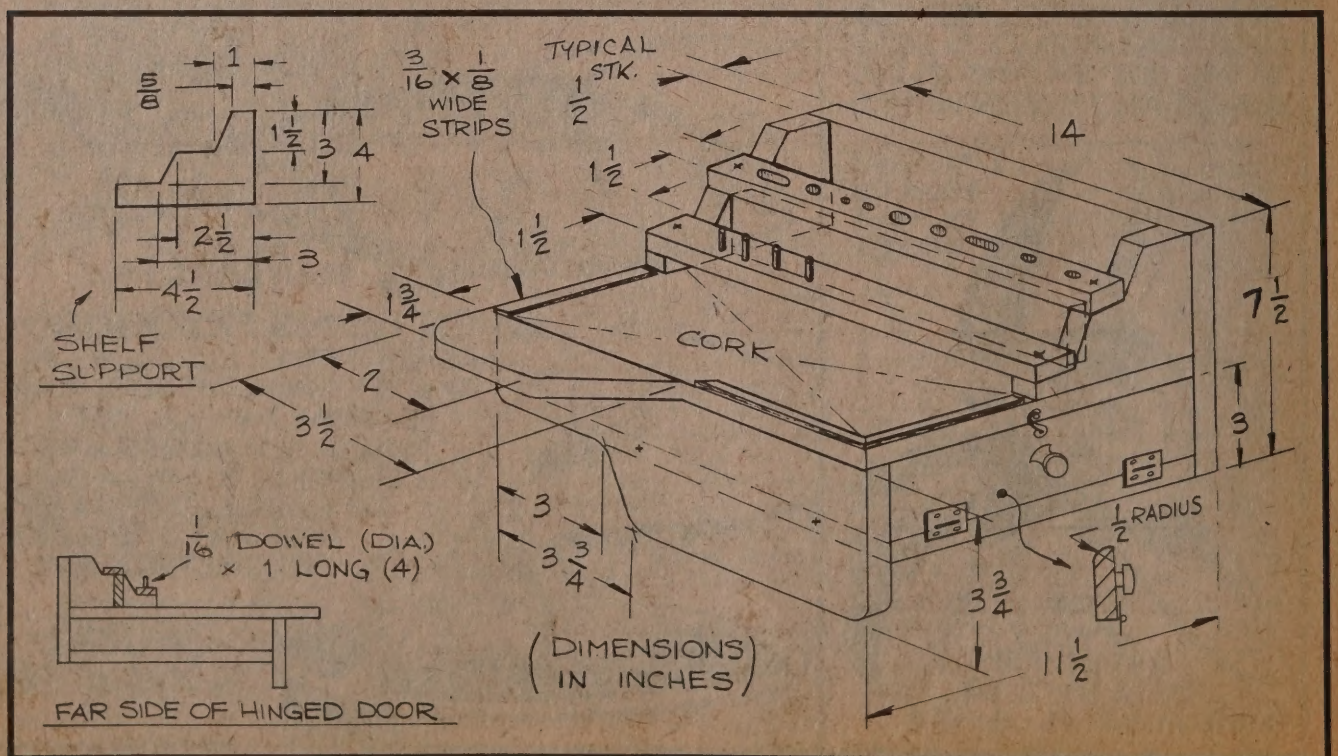
by Don Avondolio

For those who have ventured into the fly fishing arena, the beauty of this portable bench runs more than skin deep.

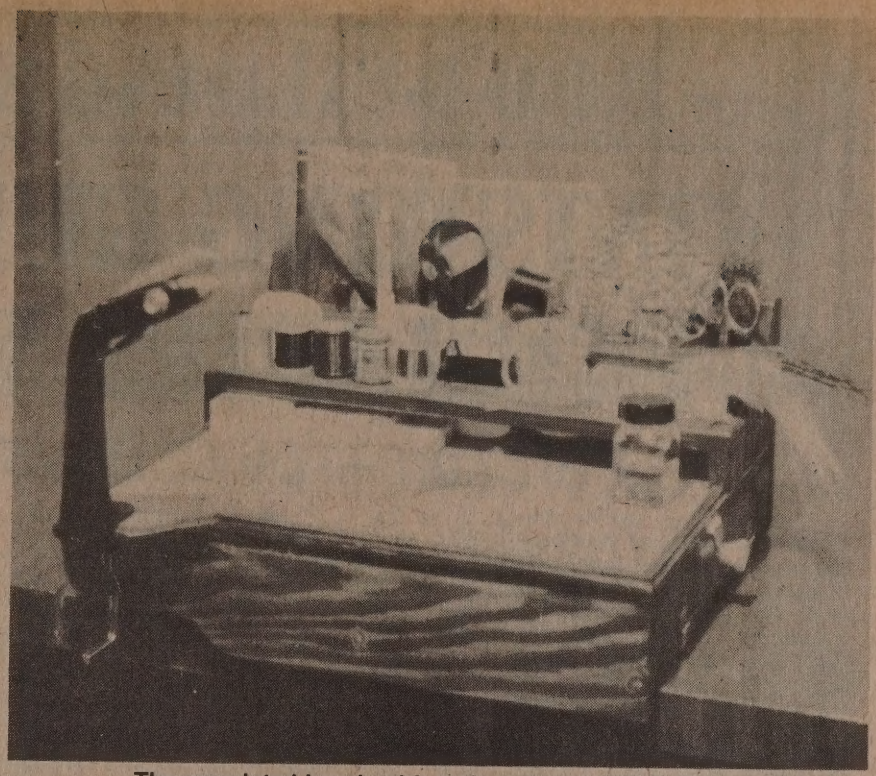
During the past few years, the popularity of saltwater fly fishing has increased significantly. This can be primarily attributed to several innovations, such as the introduction of new types of fly lines, new fly rod and fly tying materials. These changes have allowed serious fly fishermen to review and upgrade their saltwater fishing techniques to a high degree of simplicity and efficiency. Nowadays, It's not unusual to see fly fishermen working the Island's back bay waters and beaches with their characteristic long slender fishing rods among the spin and conventional tackle stalwarts. Saltwater fly fishing, which is ultra-light fishing at its best, is popular because of one prime characteristic: the ability to catch a small, or medium size fish with the effect similar to landing a "lunker." Occasionally that **real** lunker is landed on ultra-light tackle, which produces even more excitement. Also the idea of catching a sport fish on a fly that is tied and/or originated by oneself is another motivating factor contributing to flyfishing's popularity. One can realistically simulate a sand eel, spearing, squid, sea worm, etc. or whatever bait is being chased by the predator using tied feathers, bucktail, etc. on a hook shank. Often either on a beach, or within a boat, by observing at the fishing locale the bait that's in the water, its color, its motion, or size, one can almost "match the hatch" by duplicating the bait, thus improving the odds of catching fish.

Saltwater flies are tied on benches, or work surfaces of varying types and it becomes important to not only have this bench handy, but the provisions for carrying fly tying tools, and as many materials necessary to "match the hatch." There are several tying benches on the market today. Basically, they feature a tying surface, tool holders, and material compartments. The majority of these models do **not** store tools and materials for transportation from one area to another. Thus, it becomes necessary to carry extra bags and boxes in order to efficiently and completely tie patterns. The few benches available on the market for carrying equipment are large, costly, and inconvenient. Therefore, I decided to design my own portable carry-all and tying bench purposely featuring compactness and ruggedness. I have actively used my bench for over a year and found it to exceed my objectives. I carry all my materials, tools and vise in a single polyethylene bag which is stored in the lower hinged compartment of the bench. To start tying, all that is required is to remove the bag, place all the tools in their position on the shelves and place tying materials into the slotted sections. Then place the thread spools on the dowels and clamp the vise in position.

I constructed the bench model for less than $11 (in materials) as listed, and found that construction time was approximately ten to twelve hours. I purchased a sanded plywood sheet that was relatively free of knotholes at a local lumber yard for four dollars and change. The stock measured 2'x4'x1/2" thick and supplied more than enough material for constructing this bench. Needless to say, if you prefer to construct a more attractive



bench, you can substitute oak or walnut material stock; naturally the cost will be significantly higher. The individual plywood pieces are measured and marked per my sketch and cut with a crosscut handsaw or saber saw. Start assembly by completing the main box structure and then proceed to attaching shelves and supports. A tip: if the sawcuts are made slightly outside the measured pencil marks, the pieces can be hand-fitted (or trimmed) for better fit and appearance. For rugged construction, I use both wood screws and glue at each connecting joint. Be sure to pre-drill the screw holes first. The glue is spread on each matched surface; and then screws are driven in at predetermined support locations (approx. 3'' to 4'' pitch). The flat head (or countersunk screws) are driven slightly below the wood surface, so as to hide their appearance. Plastic wood filler can be then added over the screw heads and sanded flush prior to staining procedure. I used #8 wood screws by 1½'' long with pre-drilled pilot holes of .093 diameter. A small quantity of soap applied to the screw threads will allow easier entry into the wood joint. Once the bench is completely assembled and satisfactory appearance wise, sand the entire wood surface with either a belt sander or sanding block. Start with coarse grit and finish with an extra fine grade. Sand with the grain for best appearance. After your wood bench is reasonably smooth, stain the bench with your own choice of color. I used two coats of Sear's cinnamon maple color stain applied with a clean cloth. Once completely dried, I overcoated the wood with two coats of satin finish polyurethane for moisture protection. Cork for the work surface can be obtained at any auto supply store (normally used as gasket material). Using a razor blade, cut and bond the cork to the work surface carefully so as to not tear the piece during handling. The miniature catch and hinges can be obtained at a hardware store for minimum cost. They are attached by screws after final staining operations. Then insert a piece of foam between the shelves for fly storage and drying. Use an oversize piece of polyurethane or polyethylene (obtained from packing material). Attach your tying vise to the work surface and start tying. To transport, slip all the equipment into the hinged compartment and lock securely. When transporting, the entire bench can be carried vertically at your side, using the shelf material slot as a carrying handle.



The completed bench with tools and material in place.

For reference purposes, many excellent books describing simple tying procedures, fly tying materials, and popular productive patterns are obtainable from your library or bookstore. Once adept at tying, you will find that creating **new** patterns can be challenging fun and could even be more rewarding if a fish is caught on your own original fly pattern. So, be prepared to tie most any fly pattern or duplicate the interest of any predator fish. Buy some material, build this bench and ''match the hatch'' next time you go fly fishing. Possibly when you drop **that** particular fly in the salt, **that** ''Lunker'' will swim along the take **that** helpless feathered hook. Good Luck!

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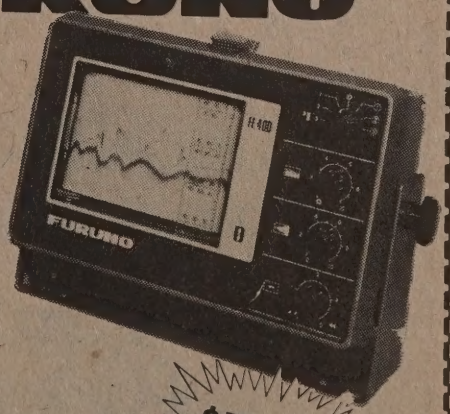

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— ROD BUILDING SERIES —

FINISHING GUIDES & DECORATIVE WRAPS

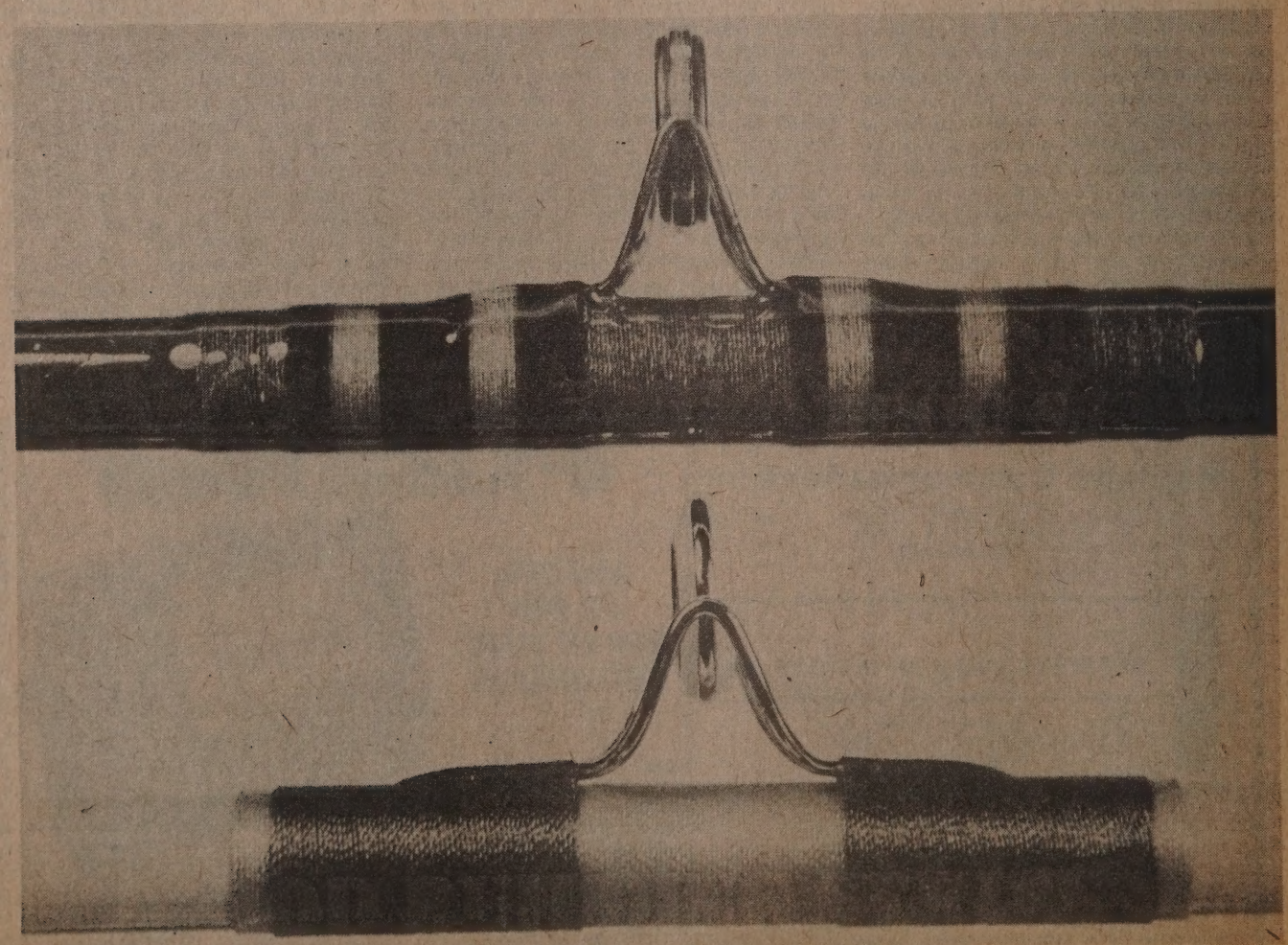
Part Ten — *by C. Boyd Pfeiffer*

Once all the wraps of your new fishing rod are complete, it is still necessary to protect them with clear finishing coat. For years, varnish has been traditional to finish rods and is still used by some builders. Today, most rod builders are using the newer rod finishes of epoxy or urethanes. Most of the fine rod manufacturers are using the epoxy finishes for durability, high gloss finish and high scratch resistance.

Before picking a rod finish, it is important to consider the pros and cons of each finish material.

Varnish—Traditional rod varnish or spar varnish has been used for years on both homemade, custom and factory rods. It has the advantage of being cheap, single solution (epoxies are two-part and must be mixed) and thin. This latter is important for rod builders lacking the ability to turn the rod as it cures, as is required with an epoxy finish to prevent sags. Varnish, provided that it is put on in thin coats, does not require turning the rod. It does have the disadvantages of requiring multiple coats to equal the protective finish of one coat of epoxy.

Also, it is an amber color so that the true colors of light or bright thread will not come through the finish. It will usually turn more amber in time on the rod, to further dull the finish. However, it should be used on traditional bamboo fly rods for refinishing work, and works fine on light rods where a thin protective coat is required and where the blank and thread colors are warm tones that will not show the amber overboat of the



Examples of finished and unfinished rod wraps. Top wrap has been finished with epoxy rod finish, while the bottom wrap is still unfinished. If this wrap were left unfinished, the thread would rapidly fray while fishing, and the guide would wobble or come off.

rod varnish. Varnish can be thinned further if desired for very thin coats on very light rods and wraps.

Urethanes—These are generally thin and easy to work with. They have the advantage of a thicker build-up than the varnishes, but less than most epoxies. They are cheap, flexible, single solution, but also have some disadvantages. Urethanes will amber the same as varnish and will still require multiple coats on heavier, larger rods.

Epoxies—These have the advantage of quick build-up so that often one coat is sufficient for all but the heaviest rods. They are more expensive, and the heavier finishes thickly applied to a rod will require rod rotation to prevent sagging of the finish as it cures.

They also come in two parts and must be mixed, using a 50/50 mix for optimal results. Some of these finishes will amber in time while some such as Flex Coat, will stay remarkably clear. Also, Flex Coat has a color preserver which the manufacturer guarantees will not yellow over the finish when used with their epoxy finishes. Generally speaking, epoxies can't be thinned, or can be thinned only with caution. There are so many different thinners and epoxies on the market it is difficult to suggest any that seem to work, or any that definitely don't. Chemists generally recommend not thinning, since it can affect the chemistry of the epoxy—usually adversely. One exception to this is the Flex Coat thinner which is designed and formulated to be used with their epoxy. Generally, up to six drops per 6 cc of finish can be used without harm, and this can be exceeded with special instructions.

Thinners—Various thinners are possible, with some of the aforementioned. Terpentine and mineral spirits can be used for thinning varnish, while urethane finishes also have thinners available. Epoxies are more difficult to thin, as just outlined, but the Flex Coat epoxy and thinner will work well. While 6 drops per 6 cc of Flex Coat is recommended, you can exceed this provided that you do not go overboard. If you do thin excessively, then you run the risk of making the cured finish softer than it should be. This can be adjusted by using **less** of the hardener (bottle B in Flex Coat), but it would take experimentation to develop the right formula.

One way that you can simplify mixing the two-part epoxy when you are going to thin, is to add the proper amount of thinner to the resin bottle and mix thoroughly. It will not affect the resin and has a long shelf life. Then you can mix the two parts when ready and the thinner will already be mixed in the resin bottle.

Color Preserver—Color preservers are used before any finish is added. These will retain the color of the thread that you have so carefully applied to the rod guides and as decorative wraps. Usually about two

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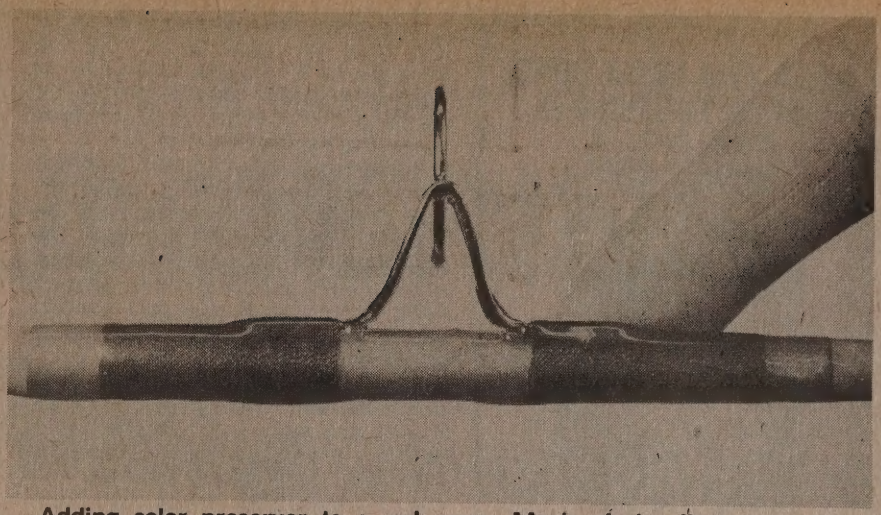
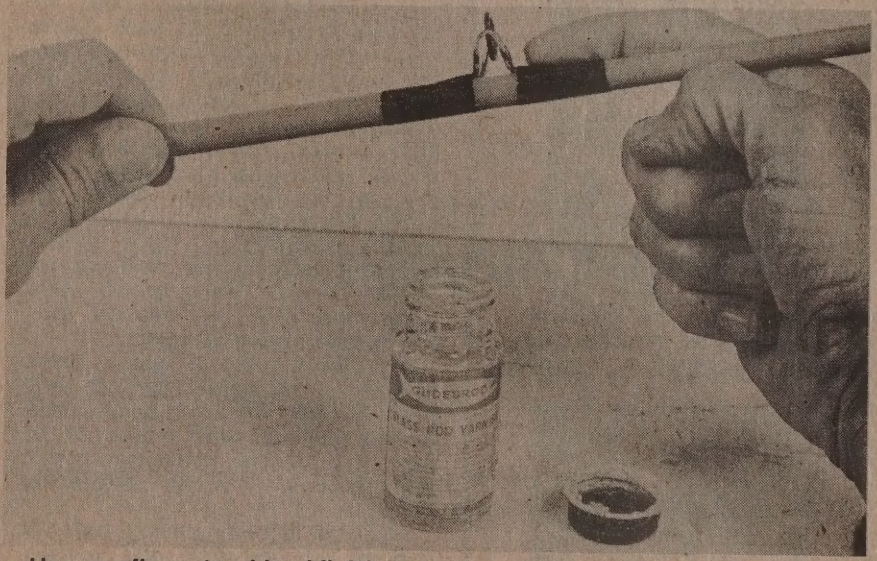
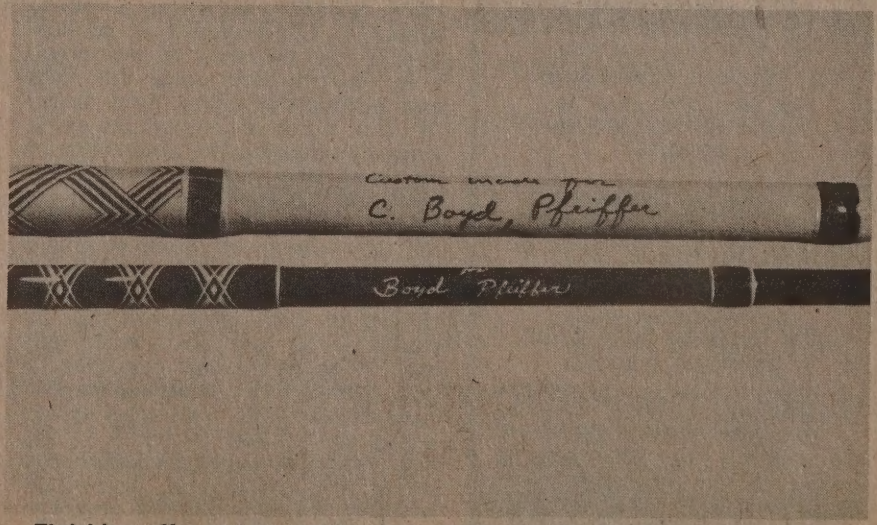


Adding color preserver to a rod wrap. Much of the first coat will penetrate the rod wrap and cause it to temporarily get darker. Use several coats to thoroughly protect the wraps from color change. A small brush can also be used, but avoid making bubbles in the finish when using a brush.



Use your finger to add rod finish (varnish in this case) to a rod wrap. Use a brush with epoxy finishes, since contact with epoxies should be avoided. When using varnish as shown here, use several coats to build up the finish, rather than trying to add too much at one time.



Finishing off a rod by writing your name on the blank just above the handle or decorative wraps, makes for a nice touch. Use black India ink on light rods and white or silver lettering ink on dark or black rods. Use a fine pen point and practice first before trying it on the rod.

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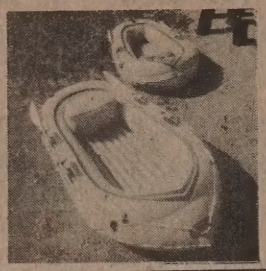

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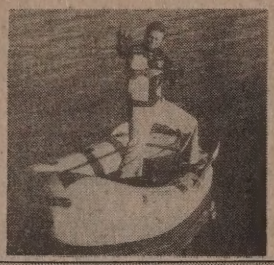

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to four coats are necessary, depending upon the type wrap and the thickness of the thread. More will be required on thick, complex decorative diamond and chevron wrap patterns above the handle of the rod.

Some rod builders prefer to finish their rods without color preserver. This does not affect the finish of the wraps or the protective coating of the final finish, but will change the color of the thread, unless you are using an NCP (no color preserver) thread which is impregnated with color preserver by the manufacturer.

The result of not using color preserver will usually result in all thread becoming translucent rather than opaque (as you see them before finishing). This means that you will see a slight outline of the guide foot through the wrap. In the case of black guides which have been filed flat for easy wrapping, this also means that you will see this color transition. As a result, if you know that you want a rod with translucent wraps, coat the polished bright end of black guides with permanent felt tip marker so that this color change won't show through the wrap. In addition to making the threads translucent, it will also make light colors lighter, dark colors darker, and change their shade in the process. For example, white will become completely transparent. Yellow, light blue, light green, orange, goldenrod, etc., will become lighter in color while brown, dark green, dark blue, red, maroon, etc., will become darker in color.

The techniques of using these finishes to preserve, protect and beautify your rod are simple. First, work in clean, dry area, one out of the way of a normal household traffic pattern where dust is constantly kicked up.

Next, get some brushes to coat the finishes on smoothly and evenly. Small 1/4" brushes are fine for small wraps while larger 1/2, 3/4 and one inch rod building brushes are available for larger boat and surf rods. Hold the rod horizontal on a rack to support it. Use several light applications of color preserver on each guide wrap to completely cover the wrap and avoid any dripping. First, brush the color preserver around the guide wrap, beginning at the outer edge of the wrap and progressing inward. Next, use the brush to smooth out the color preserver along the axis of the rod. Do this with each guide wrap and don't forget the wraps at the handle, ferrule, and tiptop. Subsequent applications of color preserver can be placed on the wrap about every half hour. After the last coat (two coats of light rods and thin thread wraps, 3-4 coats on heavy rods with larger thread wraps) wait at least 24 hours for the last coat to dry before adding the finish of your choice. This wait prevents any possibility of chemical reaction between the color preserver and the final finish.

While the basics of the final finish application are all the same, we'll consider the epoxies since they are two part and require mixing. First, use a new or clean brush for the epoxy application. Keep the rod on a rack and for the epoxies have ready a rod rotator to turn the rod as the finish cures. The first of these on the market was the Tackle Crafters Cure Master, which by means of a slow rpm motor, universal chuck rod holder and separate support stand for the other end of the rod, will hold any rod that you may want to make.

Begin by mixing the epoxy as recommended by the manufacturer, usually a 50/50 mix. Failure to stick to the recommended formula may result in the finish being too soft (even to the point of not curing) or too brittle and possibly cracking or crazing.

One tip if you do get a finish that will not cure in a few days is to go over it with a second coat. But in mixing the second coat, use **less** of the hardener portion of the mix, so that it will mix slightly with the uncured finish and cure properly. It might sound like a contradiction, but more hardener produces a softer finish; less hardener produces a harder and more brittle finish. Ways to get an exact mix include syringes (a set is included in Flex Coat 2 oz. kits) or small 1 oz. disposable mixing cups (available from Tackle Crafters). The mixing cups have measurements in fractions of an ounce, cc, teaspoons, etc. Mix thoroughly with a coffee stirrer or wood stirring stick. After it is mixed, scrape out on a smooth flat surface, since this will temporarily retard the curing time and allow you ample time to apply the mix to the wraps. You can further slow the curing time by placing the flat surface on a tray of ice cubes to cool the mixture.

Use the tip of the brush to apply the finish, first rotating the rod to spread the finish around the wrap, and then working along the rod axis to smooth it evenly along the thread. Pay particular attention to the space under the center of the guide (if using an underwrap) and around the point where the guide feet join the frame. Overlap the finish onto the rod blank by about 1/6" to completely cover the wrap edges.

Once finished, clamp the rod in your curing device or turn the rod manually (a 90° turn every 10 minutes works) for several hours until the finish shows no signs of sagging. Varnish or the urethanes do not require this step, since they are thinner and will not appreciably sag when thin coats are used.

Repeat with more coats if desired. Usually one coat of epoxy is sufficient for all light rods; two coats may be necessary for heavier rods. Varnish will require at least two coats on light rods and might require up to 10 coats for an equivalent finish on heavy rods. After the last coat is cured for 24 hours, your handcrafted rod is ready to fish.

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ON CHOOSING A NECK LIGHT

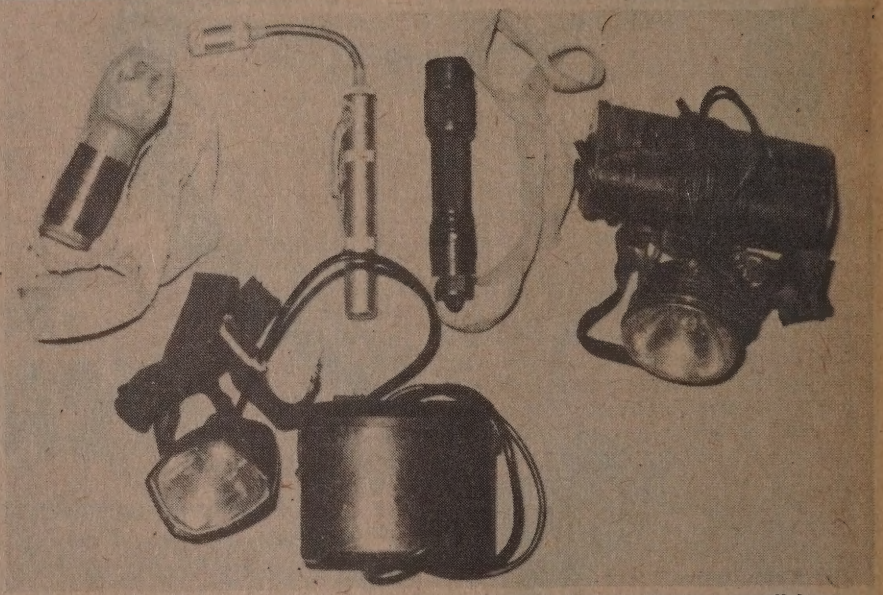
by John Fritz

What ever your feelings about lights may be, they have their place in the inky blackness of a midnight surf.

Individuals introduced to the joys of surfcasting will, in all likelihood, make their initial outings during the hours of daylight. These first efforts might seem futile, for unles the angler has the good fortune to walk into a blitz few fish are put on the beach. Although these trips seem to be a waste of time, dismissing the often-repeated cliche about enjoying the fresh air, valuable experience is attained which would not be possible at night. After the basic techniques and skills are mastered the novice surfman soon begins to realize that more and better game fish can be taken between sunset and sunrise. While many veteran surfmen can fish an entire night without once resorting to the use of an artificial light, all fishermen will sooner or later be faced with a chore where a light other than that provided by nature, will be essential.

A study of a well-outfitted surfman's equipment will reveal that all gear is designed to be worn about the body leaving the hands free to cast. Since the obvious place to carry a light is around the neck, small compact flashlights are desired. When I started fishing the surf an angler had to choose between two lights suited for this purpose: either a common hand-held flashlight or the Just Rite Headlight. At the present time anglers are fortunate to have several lights from which to choose. Basically these lights can be divided into two separate groups: the single unit piece with the batteries contained in the light itself, much like the everyday flashlight. The other design features a separate container for the batteries connected to the light by means of a length of wire. The latter model permits the angler to carry the battery compartment concealed under his clothing, shielded from the corrosive effects of saltwater.

In the following paragraphs, I will attempt to list the neck lights that I have used and point out a few of the advantages or problems experienced through the years. It must be pointed out that frequent maintenance is necessary on all electrical units which comes in contact with water, especially saltwater. One spot of corrosion on a vital contact point and the light is rendered useless.



Some of the lights available are better suited to certain fishing conditions than others, but all have their virtues. Photo by W.A. Muller.

To my knowledge the first light specifically designed to carry around the neck is the Justrite Head Light. This unit features a separate battery case, containing four, "D" size batteries connected to a separate head light by a 3' length of cord. The head light is fitted with an adjustable elastic band by which the light is hung around the neck and offers a beam which can be changed from a spot to a wide angle. This unique feature is activated by twisting the metal ring of the lens cover, proving to be a valuable advantage when trying to spot a fish being tossed among the docks such as encountered under the Light at Montauk.

Even though the battery case is carried inside the angler's clothing, problems do arise with the contact points, but with much less frequency than with lights completely exposed to the elements. A brief rub with emery cloth on the contact plates and a coating of vaseline on the terminals where the wire passes through the case lid will, in most instances, ensure trouble-free service from this part of the unit. The head light section is more susceptible to corrosion; therefore, more diligent maintenance is required here. The two areas of most concern are the bulb socket and the on/off switch with the latter's exposed position on the underside of the case being the most troublesome. Frequent spraying of these critical areas with WD-40 will reduce malfunctions and extend the life of the unit. The approximate cost of this light, excluding batteries, is $15 and it can be purchased from most well-stocked tackle stores or from the Surfcaster's Catalog.

The next light to be considered does not have a name. I obtained the light through the mail order catalog offered by Brookstone of Peterborough, New Hampshire. The principle features of this light is that both the battery case and the remote head light are made of high impact plastic with the few exterior metal parts of stainless steel. The combination of these two qualities goes a long way towards reducing corrosion. The battery case in this instance is designed to carry only three D size batteries, cutting the total weight by a fraction, but more importantly, eliminating the need for a fourth battery. The major disadvantage, to my mind, is that the on/off switch is situated on the battery case which prohibits ready

access when buried underneath a waterproof top.

The third light might be described as the bridge between the one piece light and the necklights with two remote units. The Flex-Lite has a pencil-shaped cylinder of anodized aluminum which holds two AA batteries connected to the bulb case by a short length of flexible tube. The light is activated by turning the lens ring, thereby eliminating fumbling for an on/off switch. The candlepower of this light is much less than those using D batteries, but is sufficient for all close-at-hand tasks one might have to perform during the course of a night's fishing.

For many years, the Flex-Lite was the favorite of surfmen who enjoy wading into the surf where an occasional dousing is just part of the night's work. The battery case features a pen-like clip which allows the wearer to clamp the light to the neck of a jacket under the waterproof top with just the bulb section protruding at the neckline. Even with the greater portion of the light buried underneath clothing, saltwater will invariably come in contact with the light. To further prevent corrosion to the light's interior, a rubber "O" ring can be inserted under the globe which protects the bulb from moisture. As an additional waterproofing measure, the joints, where the flex neck enters each metal case, can be sealed with tape or better yet a suitable liquid sealer. Like most articles of interest to surfmen, this light can be bought from well stocked tackle stores or the Surfcaster's Catalog.

The Tekna-Lite II is probably the most favored light used by surfmen who are frequently being drenched with water, either from crashing waves or that which is encountered while fishing in a wet suit. It has a plastic body reputed to be virtually indestructible with a molded lanyard loop for attaching a neck strap. It is powered by two AA batteries with the beam activated in a manner similar to the Flex-Lite, a slight turn of the lens cover produces a beam more than adequate for any close-at-hand chores. Some veteran surfmen reduce the bass further by placing a wrap of black vinyl tape along the side edge of the protruding lens cover forcing all light to be focused directly forward. Since this light does not have a flexible headpiece, any task requiring two hands forces the user to aim the beam by clamping the light between his teeth. Because the Tekna-Lite measures just 5½" and the plastic body weighs but a few ounces, this requirement does not cause any discomfort.

The approximate cost of the Tekna-Lite was $9 and one place where it can be obtained is at Kronuch's Tackle Shop in Montauk, an area where use of this light is popular among the hard working surfmen of this rugged shore.

Finally, the light gaining more favor these past years from surfmen who prefer to stay comparatively dry, is the disposable flashlight found in most general merchandise stores throughout the Metropolitan Area. With a neck strap secured to the light with vinyl tape it can be carried around the neck just as the others lights designed specifically for this purpose. Some anglers will rig a regular flashlight in the same manner, but the task of maintenance and battery replacement is required once again whereas the $2 or $3 throwaway can be discarded without much financial loss. In reality it is not necessary to discard the entire light once the battery has worn out, for such outlets as Herman's sell replacement batteries for about $1. It should be pointed out that this feature is not possible on all throwaway lights, but with the Garrity Life Light, battery replacement is assured.

The beam cast by these lights is sufficient for all tasks from tying knots to spotting fish in the wash. In fact, some anglers, feeling the beam is too bright, will stick black vinyl tape over part of the lens in an effort to cut down on the glare.

Secretive surfmen, in an effort at hiding their success, will frequently attempt all tasks without the aid of an artificial light. Inevitably they will be hampered by a chore which will require added illumination. Some, in an attempt at concealment, will cover the lens with a piece of transparent red plastic. While this may seem foolish or selfish, there often is good reason for such actions. While artificial light is often a necessity when fishing at night, the careless use of these lights will often scare timid game fish and put a halt to all productive fishing for that particular occasion. All reasonable surfmen would not complain about another thoughtful angler sharing the fishing, but all too often the heedless actions of others will ruin the fishing for all. This is particularly true when fishing calm, shallow waters where loud noises, uncontrolled splashing or misdirected light beams are at fault.

An angler sensitive to others fishing nearby will carefully shield his light when doing such things as changing plugs or freeing fouled lures. If an involved chore, such as untangling a massive windloop is required, then the angler should back out of the water.

Most routine jobs encountered when fishing at night can be accomplished with the background lighting coupled with the sense of touch. Eyes, once they become accustomed to the darkness, will enable a person to distinguish objects reasonably well especially when the article is held against the background glow. Before a light is turned on, attempt to perform the task in the dark. With practice, more minor chores will be completed and the use of any of these gadgets will be relied on less and less.

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THE SOFT STUFF

by Andy Regina

"We reap the benefits of that consummate curiosity every so often, in the form of new lures or improved fishing tackle."

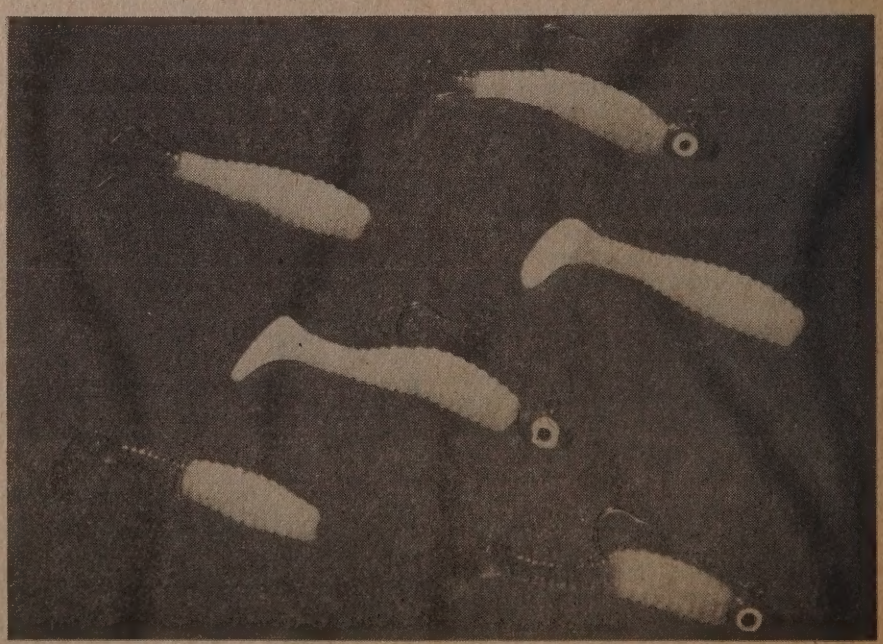
Most serious fishermen are afflicted with a severe case of curiosity, plagued with an insatiable itch to experiment. They are forever trying new methods, new lures, or any new idea, original or otherwise, they feel might improve their angling technique or fish-catching prowess. Watch one sometime. Even though fish may be feeding ravenously, some hopelessly addicted nut like me will be forever trying something different. Momentary blitzes are forsaken in his compulsion to experiment; his search for "something better" is constant and never-ending. Lure fishermen are consistently changing colors, styles, or sizes, to find out whether such changes will effect equal, better, or perhaps, worse results. Bait fishermen claim they do not have the patience of lure users, but they may often substitute baits, trying something other than any bait that is currently taking fish. Different rigging techniques may also be tried, in the relentless pursuit of that same "something better."

Immediate failure does not deter him. If his new attempts do not meet with success, do not work as well as the bait or lure that was currently doing well at that time, he will merely switch to a different bait or another lure, or even a new modification of rigging, and keep on trying. Catching a lot of fish does not impress him either, not by a long shot. He's usually a veteran angler with lots of fish scalps on his belt anyway and, if given his choice, would happily forsake lots of fish taken conventionally for just one fish, caught "his" way.

On just such compulsive experimentation has modern sport fishing as we know it today evolved. Without this all-powerful urge to stimulate fishermen in the past, we might still be hunting fish with spears in shallow water. Even with the advantage of today's highly advanced, space-age technology, fishermen continue to experiment. We reap the benefits of that consummate curiosity every so often, in the form of new lures or improved fishing tackle.

Most fishermen, freshwater and saltwater alike, experiment with lures or tackle that was created exclusively for the other medium. Prior to World War II, saltwater surf-nuts started using freshwater swimming plugs designed for largemouth bass. Discovering that these plugs worked on stripers also, they opened the door to greater, more intense experimenting. Catches of bluefish and weakfish invited additional experimentation, and before long, plugs blossomed into the effective saltwater lures we use today. By the same token, saltwater

Original paddle-shaped tails of Mann's Jellyworms proved highly effective for weakfish.



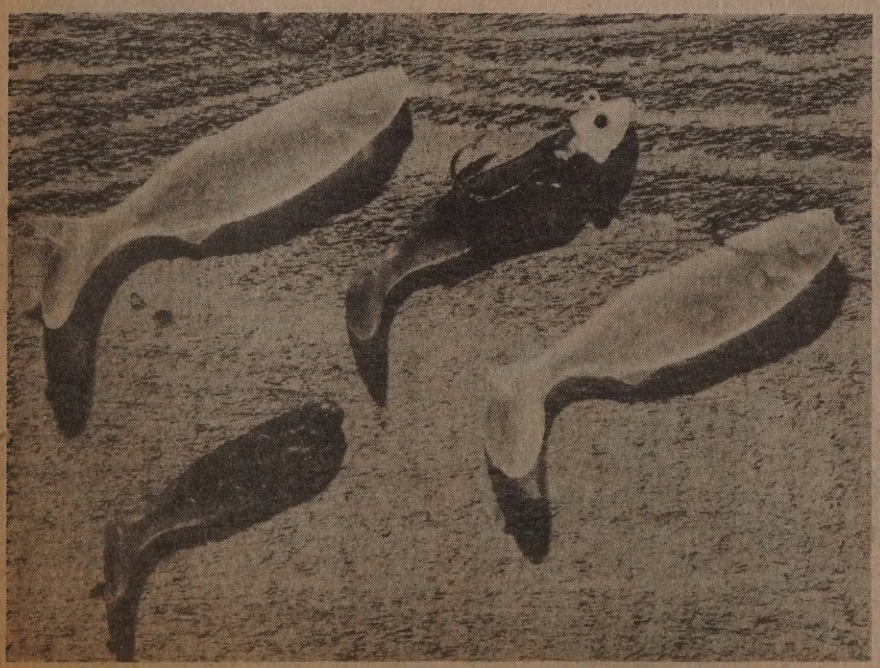
New grubs share the same features. That chunk molded into the end of the plastic-tail creates swimming action. New, too, are color combinations that seem to do the trick.

bucktail jigs eventually achieved high status among some knowledgeable freshwater anglers, and are now considered an integral part of freshwater bass fishermen, proved equally efficient to enterprising saltwater anglers, and that tackle is now fairly popular with a great many of us.

When rubber worms were introduced on the freshwater scene, they created such a furor with their outstanding catches, that the overwhelming consumer demand prompted many lure manufacturers to try their hands at this new world of soft lures. Their initial success spawned a host of new changes: assorted colors, then combinations of colors, evolved, as did many new shapes and sizes. The evolution from rubber to plastic made possible further creations of new shapes and additional sizes and colors. Shrimp-tail jigs racked up loads of weakfish in the early 70s, further precipitating additional designs. Soon, soft plastic tails such as grubs and minnows took their places alongside a burgeoning assortment of worms, and the full variety of the entire soft plastic line was adopted by many of us, considered par for the course for determined saltwater lure anglers. Mann's Jellyworms and Stingray Grubs, Burke's WigWag Minnows, and Red Gill Sand Eels are popular saltwater lures today, though each was created specifically for freshwater use at the outset.

Newly created plastics allowed lure designers greater latitude than was possible with rubber, providing the opportunity to expand hitherto impossible ideas into many additional new lures. The introduction of curved-tail lures proved so realistic that they set the standard for an entirely new concept in plastic-tail design, resulting in yet another host of life-like imitations for us to use. Today we can simulate any one of many baits, which naturally increases the variety of the fish that we can catch on those baits. That original startling success with weakfish prompted experimentation for other species, and fluke, striped bass, and bluefish were added to the record of these ubiquitous curly-tails. The new shapes, sizes, designs, and even colors, all proved their effectiveness on many other saltwater species, and fish not previously considered predominantly lure-takers fell for the soft stuff, fish like whiting, ling, and white perch. So, today, the era of the plastic tail is upon us in full force; that soft stuff is modestly priced, easy to use, not messy, and it catches fish. What greater arguments can be offered to prove their popularity?

The curly-tails offer greater shimmying, swimming action, while mylar-flecked colors add greater flash and attraction.



New minnow-type soft plastic tails have built-in action due to shape molded into tail.

Unlike bucktail jigs that often demand practice before you can master any fish-catching technique with them, plastic tails are simple to use, often requiring no effort from the angler other than a normal, straight-back retrieve. This is so because that soft plastic supplies all needed motion, wiggling seductively without any angler-induced action. Rigging is simple, as most lures are merely soft, plastic tails that fit on a specially constructed jig head. In place of the tying step found on conventional jig heads, the plastic-tail jigs all feature one or more barbs that help to keep the tail in an upright position as they keep that tail from slipping back on the hook as the lure is being used.

The shape of the bend molded into curved-tail baits imparts a swimming motion as the lure is drawn through the water, either as it is under way while trolling, or being retrieved while casting. The force of the water pushed past the lure literally tries to straighten the curved section as it causes the tail to stream steadily backwards. The thinness of the plastic thus maintains a constant shimmying action that is amazingly life-like, resembling a real fish swimming. Rigging tails to jigs is relatively simple, as we have previously stated, but there are still some precautions that should be taken to ensure proper motion, thereby deriving the true efficiency of these lures. The tail must fit squarely to the jig head, so be certain that it abuts the jig head at exactly right angles (90°) as you slip it onto the hook and snug it forward. The tail must also be pierced by the hook at the exact center of its body width, to allow the tail to swim upright, instead of canted over to either side, which would appear unnatural. That tail must also stream past the hook bend unhindered, and not become bent around or bunched-

(Continued on next page.)

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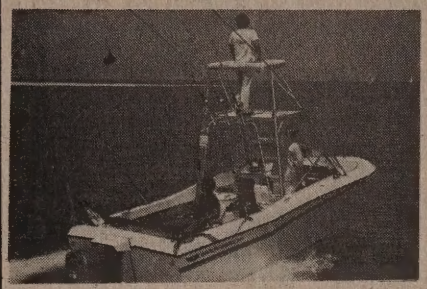

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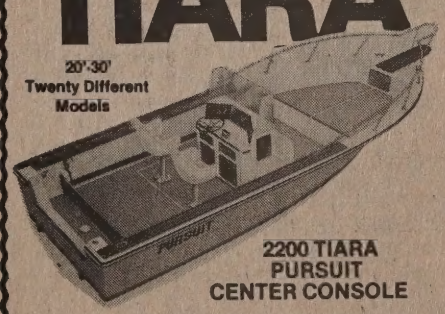

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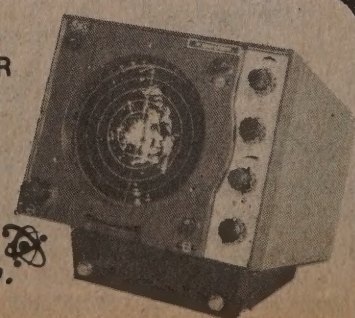

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up on the bend of the hook.

To ensure a proper fit, lay the tail alongside the jig before you seat it, placing the front of the tail flush against the back of the jig head so that the body of the plastic tail lays along the shank of the jig hook. Simple observation will reveal the exact position on the tail at which the hook will emerge through the plastic. Gauging that distance, proceed with the wedding of the tail to the jig by impaling the front of the tail upon the point of the hook, at precisely the center of the body's girth. Thread the tail onto the hook as you would hook a worm, sort of like stringing a bead. Proceed past the hook bend and up the shank until you arrive at the proper place along the tail through which the hook should emerge. Bring the hook through the plastic until the bend is revealed, then continue stringing that tail up the hook shank until the plastic nudges flush against the base of the jig head. You'll find that this will seat that plastic tail right every time.

While on the subject of rigging, a word of advice is in order. Most anglers rig curly tails with the curved section rising upward. This works well, and looks natural too, but the end of that curved tail gets hung-up on the hook too many times, especially when cast. Make certain that the curved-tail points downwards when you rig it, and avoid a lot of frustration. That frustration could prove painfully true especially when you attempt those Herculean casts so often needed to reach pesky fish that somehow always manage to be just a little beyond our reach anyway. What could prove more frustrating to any fisherman, than to finally lay out some gigantic cast that reaches pay dirt, only to discover that a foul-hooked tail made all that effort go to waste?

You can get many different points of view on how to properly tie plastic-tail jigs to your line. Ask ten different fishermen, and you'll get ten different answers every time! Many anglers espouse direct tying when jigs are concerned, maintaining that snaps deter from detecting fish bites, or strikes. Other anglers swear that the round-type snaps actually improve the action of the lure by allowing lateral movement. Still, others insist that though greater action may indeed be derived via rounded snaps, there is still substantial loss of sensitivity. These die-hards use a loop knot, thus deriving the benefits of rounded-snap action while maintaining direct line-tying sensitivity.

We prefer direct tying with large jigs, but use rounded snaps with the tiny jigs we use with light and ultra-light tackle. In each case, our choice derives not from the size of the lure being used, but from the size of the fish we expect to catch with that lure. We dislike using any unnecessary links when seeking large fish, feeling that by not using snaps in this case, we will not encounter the

possibility of that snap opening under pressure, say the pressure exerted by some huge cow bass. Though it is not an everyday occurrence, it has been known to happen, and it would just be our dumb luck to have it happen if and when we finally hook that monster we have been dreaming of all our life. So, flip a coin, or something, to determine what best suits you, then do as you alone must decide. If snaps are your thing—use 'em! If not, use direct tying, it's that simple.

The simplicity involved in using plastic-tails does not preclude practicing with various retrieves to determine which one might prove more effective at that time. Basically, a simple, straight retrieve will usually prove effective most of the time, but there may be times when all it will produce for you is an aching wrist. Fish are highly unpredictable. One time they'll go for one color, presented in one particular manner, and another time they'll refuse that completely, preferring an entirely different color, fished in a completely new way. Such is the nature of the beast, I guess, but this is one of the things that makes fishing so damned interesting in the first place. The challenge of the hunt is our innate nature, and that's what makes each trip a new adventure. That's the name of the game for many of us; there'd be no appeal if it ever became too easy or boring. So, if a normal retrieve fails, try bottom-bouncing, or swim that lure up off the bottom a bit, or use the Florida whip, or jig it straight up and down—but try something, anything, until you finally score.

Various water depths must be tried at times, as well as various rates of speed, with each retrieve technique. Colors may have to be changed also, until you can come up with the particular color that appeals to the fish in that place at that particular time. To make the cheese more binding, there may even be times when subtle variances might prove the difference, such as changing jig-head colors. So, now we can add experimenting with head colors to that lengthy itinerary stated above, and changes should be made with any new speeds or techniques attempted.

But it's not boring or tedious by any means. You will become so absorbed with your experimenting that you'll wonder where the time went. Naturally it flew by because you were busy fishing instead of sitting and waiting. And on those happy occasions that you discover the winning combination of proper retrieve speed, correct technique, right tail color and head color, and correct depth, you'll get that glow of satisfaction that only comes to truly dedicated fishermen; the reward that only comes to those who dare to experiment. You could be the only one catching fish as others stare enviously, openly admiring your achievements with unconcealed respect. Then you'll be happy that you decided to experiment with the soft stuff.

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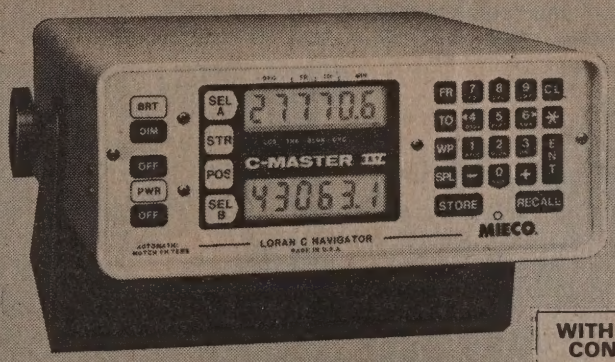

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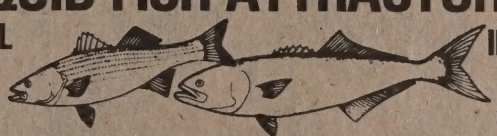

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by William A. Muller

A little thought and effort go a long way towards productive flatfishing.

A few years back I received a phone call from a fellow fisherman. It was early April, as I recall, and he said: "Bill, I just got back from flounder fishing, and what a day I had. We had 80 big flounder. Listen, you've got to come out with me tomorrow—we'll murder them!" Needless to say, I couldn't very well resist that invitation, so we made plans to meet at his boat at 6AM. Later, as I lay in bed trying to fall off to sleep, I suddenly realized something I'd forgotten in my enthusiasm over the great fishing he described. I hadn't been fishing with this fella in several years, but now it hit me that he wasn't the most careful fisherman in the world and I had stopped fishing with him because his casual attitude on the water drove me crazy. I finally fell asleep telling myself that with the fishing as good as he described, his sloppy approach to the sport wouldn't matter, and, anyway, perhaps he'd changed over the years.

A small chum pot, mussels, or prepared ground chum should be part of every flounder fisherman's arsenal.

Often a flounder fisherman can collect his own clams and mussels for bait and chum.

When I met him at his boat and climbed in, I realized that very little had changed. I asked him: "Where's the chum pot?" He said confidently, "We won't need a chum pot. I tell you they were climbing into the boat yesterday!" "Do you have a second anchor!" I asked. "No!" was his reply. I looked around. In addition to no chum pot, there was also NO chum. I decided to be diplomatic; so instead of asking about the mussels which I already knew weren't there, I asked him what's for bait? He pointed to two boxes of sandworms resting peacefully at the edge of one of the seats.

Oh boy, I thought to myself, here we go again. No chum pot, no plunger, no second anchor, no mussels or clam for chum, and only two dozen worms. We were in trouble. Even if the flounders were biting fast and furious, we would easily go through two dozen worms before we even whetted the appetites of the fish. Furthermore, my fishing companion had only one rod aboard. I began to wonder about the condition of the boat and whether or not the engine would take us there and back. After all, if a person is that careless about fishing, he or she is also likely to be casual about the upkeep on the boat and engine. The day was gray, the air cold, and a nice wind was starting to pick up out of the northeast. I wished I had stayed home in bed.

At least some of my fears were unfounded, because the boat and motor did get us out there and yes—back to the dock as well. However, I wish the rest of the story was that rosy. When we arrived at the general location where he had made the big score the day before, he began going around in circles. In a few minutes, I asked what he was doing, and then came the first piece of bad news. It seems that he had not taken ranges yesterday and now things looked a lot different. In short, he couldn't find the spot. "Was there a hole?" I asked. He said he didn't know. He didn't remember anything. Had he noticed if he was fishing in a hole or landmarks to triangulate with, or anything at all, we might have been able to get in that same spot. After all, you can often tell whether you are in a hole either with a depth recorder,

moving from place to place, or noticing that the water around you varies in color from light to dark. At this point there was little to do except take a good guess and start fishing. That's what we did. I put my line over and darned if we weren't fishing on hard bottom. This was obvious by the way the sinker hit bottom with a thud and then bounced. "Were you fishing on sand or mud yesterday?" I asked. "How should I know," he answered. I was ready to start screaming, but reminded myself that I was the guest. But, it isn't hard to tell what bottom you're fishing over. If the sinker bounces and comes up clean, then the bottom is hard. But if the sinker hits bottom without vibrations rattling back up the line and then is a bit hard to hoist up on the lift, it must be mud.

We stayed in that spot for about an hour and neither one of us had a hit. "I can't understand this," he said. "We did so well yesterday." The wind was picking up out of the east. I suggested that we move to another spot. We did. I suggested that we move only a couple of hundred feet and he agreed. When we stopped I put over my sinker and probed the bottom. The second stop was also sand. I told him of this and offered the suggestion that we move immediately. He countered that we haven't even tried this place yet, and so we spent another fruitless hour at this second drop. We moved again. The wind was increasing, we had lost two hours of the best four, and there wasn't a fish in the boat yet. There was a softer bottom at the third drop and we stayed there another hour. He did pick up one fish and so did I, but those were the only bites. "I can't understand this. They really were hungry yesterday. We're in the right spot now, but I guess they ate their fill yesterday." He was becoming philosophical, given that the tide was dribbling away. Still, I guessed he wasn't sure that this was the same spot as yesterday and even a few hundred feet could make all the difference in the world.

Suddenly he realized something and stared right through me to something in the water up ahead. I turned and there was a hunk of grass-coated bog sticking out of the water. "I remember that," he said. "We were fishing right next to that yesterday. Bill, we've got to move up a few hundred feet more. That's the spot!" Too bad that key landmark wasn't noted and remembered, because it would have saved us three hours of cold and fruitless searching. We made the fourth drop next to the bog clump, but even if the fish were there and hungry, we weren't out of the woods yet. While we fooled around trying to find a spot without the aid of any landmarks or hints to go by, the wind had picked up to about twenty miles per hour and it was gusty. That was enough wind to prevent the boat from sitting still in the water. Instead, we began to swing quickly back and forth in the water and without the second anchor, there wasn't much we could do about it.

I made a mental summary of the situation. There was about one hour of tide left and even if the flounder were eager below, they tend to slow down a bit at the end of a tide. We were swinging like crazy which meant that either we'd have to free spool line on a swing or the flounder would have to put on their track shoes to keep up with the bait. There was no chum or pot to put it in, so we couldn't pull the fish in close and hope to pick one up each time we swung over the pot. Last, but not least, we didn't have enough bait and when the flounders get sluggish at the end of a tide, I sure like to have a juicy, long, tempting piece of bait. If we used small bits, we might get through the hour, but we might not catch any at all because they wouldn't see a small bait fly by.

I decided to go with half a worm and my companion took immediate exception to this. What's the difference, I thought to myself, under these conditions we have absolutely no reason to believe that the fish will either be here, or that they'll be hungry. I waited for the boat to come to the end of a swing before lowering my bait since I figured that the boat would hesitate for ten seconds or so in one spot before it resumed a new swing. Typically that's what happens and during that ten seconds, I had a hit and took a fish. A nice fish, too, but the bait was ruined in the process. We needed to be lucky because under the circumstances, skill could at best play only a very minor role. However, we didn't have the luck either. Ten minutes later I took another fish and that bait was ruined too, but that fish was enough to convince my companion that a big bait was needed. His bait didn't even show a mark. In the next half-hour we went through over a

(Continued on next page.)

In shallow water, a plunger device to stir bottom is a great way to stimulate flounder. Here, Dick Mermon shows how it's done.

dozen worms, what with bites that didn't connect, my second rod now in action, two fishermen fishing, and two or three more fish caught. The action wasn't hot, but one could get the feeling that if the wind was light or we had two anchors, if we had chum and a pot, if we were fishing at the start of the tide here, that the action could have been impressive.

There was no doubt that the flounder were slowly going off their feed as the force of the tide died away and none of these fish were committing suicide. The bites became lighter and lighter, and thus the fish harder and harder to hook. Each bite had to be greeted with a little free-spooled line and then a very careful and gentle lift. Even when this basic flounder technique was used flawlessly, the hook-up rate was only about thirty percent.

One other fact was becoming clear. The flounders would bite through the tide, probably picking through the slack and might just go on another binge when the tide reversed. Of course, that was pure speculation, but the circumstances had that kind of "feel" about them. As it turned out, it didn't matter because we ran out of bait about half an hour before the tide went slack. Furthermore, there was no way to get more bait unless we made a half hour run to a bait and tackle store in one of the marinas because there were no mussels on the shore and we had no equipment to dig either clams or worms. We were dead. End of fishing for today. The total catch was seven flounder—just about enough for one meal for each family. The day wasn't a total wash-out and, therefore, a person can be thankful for that; but the turn of events was frustrating, the process we were forced to use to find the fish time consuming, and once on the fish, we had to work very, very hard for those few fish. When it was all over I had the sense that I had done a day's hard labor rather than going out on the water for some fun and relaxation.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not the perfect fisherman and I never have been. I have made some outrageous mistakes and I still do; but I can't escape the belief that an angler had to do everything he or she can do to improve the odds. Perhaps this has become even more true in recent years with the price of gas going sky high. Most of us make fewer trips and, therefore, we like the trips we do make to be somewhat productive. As with most, if not all, sport fishing is ninety percent mental. I don't mean that a fisherman has to be Albert Einstein to catch fish. Rather by mental I mean we have to spend some time preparing mentally for each fishing trip. If we think the trip through and take some time to plan, then we will very likely have the right equipment and tools to be successful. While planning, we should give thought to the weather and how the forecast might impact on what we would do if it were calm. A chum pot and chum should always be part of your flounder arsenal even if mussel chum is hard to come by. In a pinch, cat food will do and chum pots are available at most tackle stores for a reasonable cost. I believe you should always fish two rods. Not to catch every fish that's there, but fishing rods that are baited differently and comparing a dead stick technique to a lively stick approach can tell you a lot about how the fish are feeding. Finally, my hat is off to the many readers who write to me and tell how they read anything and everything they can get their hands on about fishing. We can all learn a lot from what we can tell and suggest to each other in the pages of club bulletins and outdoor publications.

Well, I hope that my little re-telling of this experience will help some of you, and if it doesn't help you to catch more flounders, maybe it will help you to avoid fishing trips with folks like the guy who took me for a ride!

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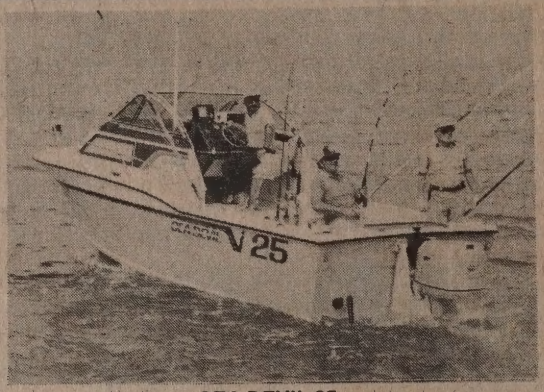

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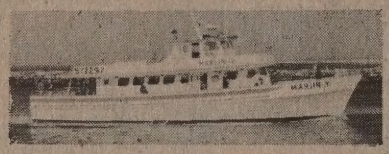

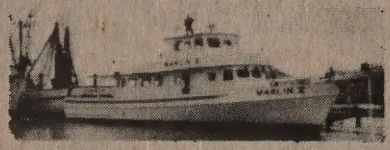

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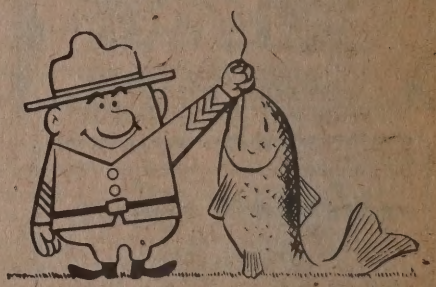
Montauk Report
by Stu Miller

Captain Paul Forsberg Jr. reports Wednesday's codfishing at Cartwright and outer Cartwright. Fares had 6 fish over 30 lbs. Fish ran 6-12 lbs. to the tune of 8-10 fish a man. Saturday and Sunday were a little slower due to strong tides and heavy weather on Sunday. On Saturday, Frank Budinsky had a total of 12 fish. Weekend catches were from 3-8 cod a man, with the pool fish going in the 15 lb. class each day. The **Viking Star** is now sailing on a daily schedule at 5AM. Watch for the **Viking Starship's** Nantucket Wreck Trips and George's Banks Wreck trips, dates of which will be appearing in the **Viking Fleet** ad shortly. The **Starship** which is still fishing out of Key West, Florida continues to do very well with most of the catch being mutton snappers in the 8-16 lb. range, with a few black groupers thrown in. Captain Paul Sr. expects to be bringing the boat back home to Montauk around mid-May.



South Shore Report
by Fred Golofaro

MORICHES BAY
Larry at **L&M Marine** got his first rental skiffs out on Saturday. Carmine LaBianca and friend from Marlboro, New York scored with an even 100 flounder up to 2 lbs., along with 3 dozen throwbacks at buoy 54. Tony DePiro along with Tom and Steve Galasso had 50 flounder up to 2 lbs. and no throwbacks fishing buoy 7A. Red clam, bloodworms and mussel chum did the trick.

Silly Lily Fishing Station called to say that they will be open Saturday with boats in the water, ready for all who thirst after scrappy spring flounder. Gary says the water temper-

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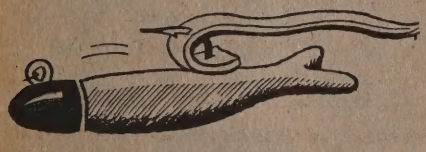

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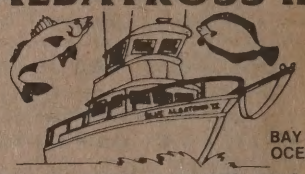

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45' • 34 PASS. • SAFE DIESEL POWER
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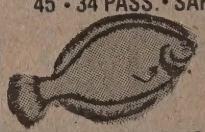

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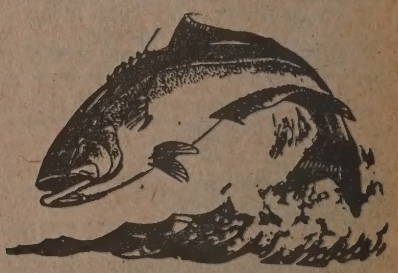

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STARTING EARLY MARCH
Big,Comfortable 65' Open Boat • Twin Diesels
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEGINNERS
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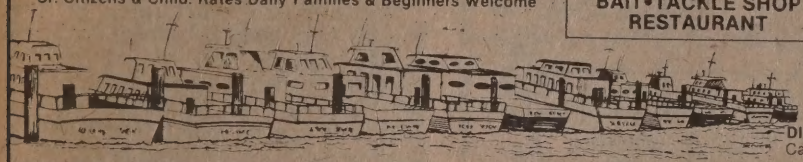
FOR INDIV. BOAT INFORMATION SEE BOAT ADS BELOW



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ALL BAITS • HOOKS • SINKERS
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FLOUNDER • MACKS • FLUKE
AFTERNOON WEAKFISH
DAY & NITE BLUES • SEA BASS

LOW OFFSEASON & HOL. RATES • MOONLITE SAILS

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• FAMILY TRADE A SPECIALITY
• FREE TACKLE
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CAPT. WHITTAKER

Leaves from Far Right Side of Dock
Sr. Cit. Disc. • Free Tackle, Bait & Rods
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NOW BOOKING '82 SEASON • ALL SPECIES
TUNA, SHARK & WRECK FISHING A SPECIALTY
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BAIT • TACKLE • ICE • BEER
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SEATUCK COVE
FISHING STATION
Fiberglass Skiffs
MOTORS • BAIT • TACKLE
The "FLOUNDER ALLEY" of Moriches Bay
Foot of Bay Ave.
EASTPORT, L.I.
(just past E. Moriches)
Reserve to be sure!
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Sen. Cit. Days Mon.-Fri.
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★ FLOUNDERS ★
DORIES • RENTAL MOTORS
★ BAIT & TACKLE ★
Adelaide Ave., EAST MORICHES, L.I.
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HI-WAY MARINA and FISHING STATION Inc.
Ft. of Atlantic Ave., E. MORICHES
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BIG ONES!!!
16 FT. TRI-HULLS • CENTER CONSOLES
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Cabin Models Avail. Up To Luxurious 42'
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BOAT & MOTOR RENTALS
FLAT FISHERMAN'S PARADISE
Marina • Ramp • Tackle • Snack Bar
Smith Street (Off Bay Ave.)
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"The Fisherman's Fishing Station!"
FISHING STATION
Boat & Motor Rentals
BAIT & TACKLE • SNACK BAR
(516) 878-0572
EAST MORICHES, N.Y.
(Maple Ave. Off Atlantic Ave.)
FLOUNDERS • FLOUNDERS

ature is now up to 40°, so things should open up soon.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** called and asked us to remind you that his station will be opening this weekend, Saturday, March 13th. He says he'll have all bait and chum available and early reports from private boats are very good, with catches of 50-60 flounder a boat, with the most productive areas being buoy 54 and also buoys 43 and 44.

CAPTREE

Captain Roy Mazziotta of the charter boat **Blue Albatross II** called to say that he will be out of the shipyard in two weeks, ready for his first flounder and mackerel trips. He says that choice dates are booking quickly and he anticipates a good solid season of fishing ahead.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** had over 40 cod on the boat Saturday, fish averaging 15 lbs. Working wrecks and open bottom. This was all on clam bait. The fishing is anywhere from 15-22 miles due south of F.I. Inlet.

LINDENHURST

Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle called to report that Sandy Ott and Al Jennewein fished the Connetquot River Saturday and got 73 perch to 2 lbs. and 1 12" brown trout. Captain Joe Burket and crew fished Quogue Canal Sunday with worms and clam and totalled roughly 150 flounder.

SEAFORD

Captain Brian of the open boat **Chinco II** asked us to let you know that the boat is being readied and spruced up for the upcoming flounder season. First trip will be Saturday, March 20th. See ad for details.

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station called to say he had his first rental boat of the season out on Saturday and it came back with 15 decent keepers up to 1 lb. The catch was made at Massapequa Cove and the first Wantagh bridge on worms and mussel chum. The station will have all needed baits for the weekend.

New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

Captain Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** had his first shot of flounder Saturday, with a nice crowd picking fish on local grounds, outgoing water best. Mussel and worm bait did the trick. The fish were hitting hard and had no mud on them, so these suckers are hungry and not just laying on the bait. Fish are averaging 1 lb. and Saturday's pool fish hit 2 lbs.

Captain Jimmy of the **Super Spray II** tells of a very good Saturday's codfishing on wrecks. Ken Hejducek was high hook with 15 cod. Three members of Atlantic Anglers had 21 cod between them. Paul and Allan Stern of Merrick totalled 16 cod. The 21 fares on the boat had a very hefty total of fish, mostly 4-8 lbers.

Captain Chris Specht of the **Starstream II** fished the Gloria and Doris area Tuesday and totalled 37 cod from 4-8 lbs. Saturday's trip saw 50 cod taken up to 25 lbs. Sunday due to a bi big heave, the catch suffered and 6 cod was the total for nine anglers. In any case, the cod continue to be taken and we must definitely note that the codfishing this season has been considerably brighter than in the last several years.

Captain Bill Lindroth of the **Capt Al** reports that Willis Heckstall, of So. Ozone Park bagged a 30 lb. pool fish Saturday. Sunday's pool fish of 25½ lbs. was hoisted by Bronx angler Ismael Montalvo. The boat is catching cod now but watch the ad for the big switch to flounder for the **Capt. Al.**

The open boat **Capt. Bill** will begin sailing its two half-day flounder trips daily on April 1st. Watch ad for details.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station asked us to let you know that they are open with boats in the water and are all set with bait and chum and will point out the most productive spots to bag your spring flatties.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie over at **Beckman's Tackle** asked us to let you know that he's open for the season and has worms and mussels in stock. Charlie says that remember spring is the time for heavy chumming and stirring up the bottom to get at those flounder.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina called to

FISHING STATIONS

ED'S FISHING STATION
SKIFFS & OUTBOARD RENTALS
SENIORS ONLY: WED., ½ PRICE ON BOAT & MOTOR
$3.00 SURCHARGE SR. CIT. MOTOR
($3. SURCHARGE)
BAIT•REFRESHMENTS•GAS•LOCKER RENTALS AVAIL.
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LONG BEACH SPORTS MARINA
WE RENT FISHING MACHINES
20'-24' PROLINES•BIG ENGINES
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16' DORIES & MOTORS ALSO AVAIL.
TUES. IS SR. CIT. DAY! • $15 BOAT & MOTOR
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20% Off All Boat Rental at All Times!

CORR'S MARINER'S COVE, INC.
MARINA & FISHING STATION
★ OMC PARTS & SERVICE ★
16' SKIFFS & 16H.P. SUZUKI OUTBOARDS
MONTHLY FISHING CONTEST
CONCRETE LAUNCHING RAMP
CLUB DISCOUNTS
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LIVE & FROZEN BAIT
TACKLE•ICE•GAS•OIL
FEATURING
SALES SUZUKI OUTBOARDS SERVICE
A LOT MORE RUN FOR YOUR MONEY
FISH SHINNECOCK BAY FOR FLOUNDER & FLUKE
PECONIC BAY FOR WEAKFISH
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OPENING APRIL 1, 1982

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BOAT & OUTBOARD RENTAL
GAS • OIL • BAIT • TACKLE
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End of Harbor Beach Rd. ★ HR-3-9785

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16 ft. Skiffs • Outboard Motors
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BEAR AND DEER BUTCHERED AND FREEZER WRAPPED • MOUNTS FOR SALE
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FREE MOUNT FOR LARGEST DEER WEIGHED IN
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Whitestone Bridge into Hutch. River Pkwy., 35 mi.
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FLOUNDERS
7:30A.M. WED., FRI., SAT. & SUN.
DAILY SAILINGS START MAR. 17
FREE
WORMS•CLAMS•HOOKS•SINKERS
CUSTOM ROD & REEL•PARKING

SAVE $—BIG REBATES NOW!
CAPT. NEIL'S REBATE POLICY—WE NEVER CHARGE FOR ANY BAIT ON THE CASEY LEE—IF YOU LOSE YOUR BAIT, GET A BIG, JUICY WORM, CLAM OR MUSSEL "REBAIT" FREE!
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POINT LOOKOUT

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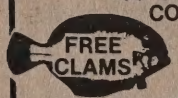
MISS POINT LOOKOUT

FLOUNDERS•TWO ½ DAY TRIPS DAILY•FLOUNDERS
7:30AM—12 NOON STARTING SAT., MARCH 20 1P.M.—5:30P.M.

70' OF FISHING COMFORT ★ SR. CITIZEN RATES ★ GROUP RATES ★ SAILING FROM PT. LOOKOUT MARINA LOCATED DIRECTLY ON REYNOLD'S CHANNEL



LARGE DAY OR NIGHT CHARTERS AVAILABLE—UP TO 75 PASSENGERS

MORE FISHING TIME THAN ANY OTHER ½ DAY BOAT•WE GUAR. TO SAIL EVERY TRIP, WEATHER PERMITTING
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HUNTINGTON

SPEEDY VII

FISH ABOARD THE NORTH SHORE'S LARGEST, FASTEST, MOST COMFORTABLE OPEN BOAT
•Less Riding Time...More Fishing Time
STARTS MAR. 20
Closest Open Boat to Eaton's Neck
FLOUNDERS•8A.M. DAILY
•75' • 23' Beam • Full Electronics • Lg. Heated Cabin
•Full Galley • Courteous Mates • Women's Accom.
•Tackle Available On Board • Booking Moonlight Sails
SAILS FROM HUNTINGTON TOWN DOCK
FISHING THE CALM, PROTECTED WATERS ON THE L.I. SOUND • SENIOR CIT. RATES DAILY
Directions: L.I.E. Exit 49N or No. State, Exit 40, N. On Rt. 110 To Huntington Town Dock, Opp. Harbor Inn Restaurant
CAPT. "SPEEDY" HUBERT (516) 661-3633
CAPT. NICK MANZARI (516) 587-4054 (Eves)

say they will be opening up on March 13th. New for the season will be the addition of a 41' Burnscraft for charter and new rental Prolines available. Needless to say their regular dory fleet is also ready for action.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Butch of the open boat **Zephyr** has been working the Shrewsbury River and by Saturday, the fishing there was pretty good with catches of up to 30 flounder a man for the accomplished pounder. Fish ran 3/4 to 1½ lbs. with a couple in the 2 lb. range. Mussels were the best bait and Butch says the catch improved each day. He looks forward to an excellent flounder spring which has gotten off to a flying start. Also, very few small fish were taken. Butch says the fish are hitting the baits hard, so they must really be hungry.

North Shore Report

by Stu Miller

GLEN COVE

John at **Glen Cove Sports** says that flounder should be starting soon and

that a likely early season spot will be the Monastery area, in the Cove just east of Prybble Beach. John expects a good season and will have a full supply of flounder baits within the next week.

HUNTINGTON

Captain Nick of the **Speedy VII** which is due to arrive at its new spot in the Huntington Harbor says the vessel is being given its last minute cosmetic flourishes and will be sailing its first flounder trip March 20th. This boat should be a great addition to the area and should serve a tremendous need of party boat anglers in this very productive (fish-wise) area.

South Fork Report

by Stu Miller

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reports the Shinnecock Canal is giving forth some flounder from 1/2 to 1 lb. on worms and clam. You must fish this early season spot when the locks are closed. Thom says he has worms and red-dyed clams in stock.

New Products

BYRD INDUSTRIES' NEW MODEL 1260 MAGNUM EAGLE

Byrd Industries' new "Model 1260 Magnum Eagle" electric fishing motor features a compact 8 in. bow-mount bracket, allowing for the use of this valuable angling accessory even when available mounting space is at a premium.

Engineered for quiet, reliably efficient performance, the hand-controlled Model 1260 is equipped with stainless steel, radial thrust ball bearing movements for maximum smoothness in the power unit. Adjustable true-course steering in the upper unit provides tight, responsive turning and course holding.

Byrd has reinforced the Model 1260 with a broad range of heavy-duty components for the demanding requirements of extensive marine use. Standard protective equipment includes hand-painted wire terminals, triple-sealed propeller shaft, anodized aluminum shaft, automatic circuit breaker switch (with manual reset),

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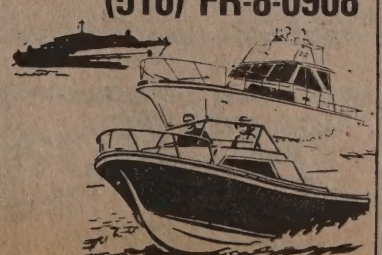

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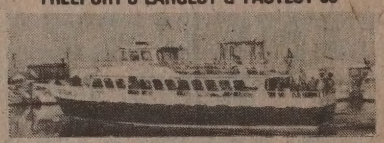

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The Uncle Josh Bait Company, manufacturers of pork rind, salmon eggs and Mr. Catfish Scent Baits, recently introduced a new pork rind pattern called the Flippin' Frog.

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For more information, contact the Uncle Josh Bait Company, 524 Clarence St., Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538.

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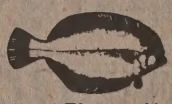

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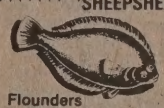

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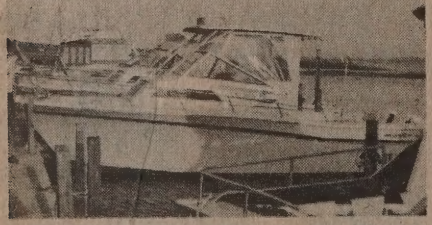
1966 Woodson Fiberglass Tri-Hull w/1977 55 h.p. Evinrude. Located in Sheepshead Bay, Bklyn. $1200. Days: 212-837-8872.



1980 GRADY-WHITE Sailfish 25', twin Evinrude 150s. Bought new Spring '81. A fishing machine. 15' outriggers, VHF, CB, Micrologic Loran C, digital depth meter. Full instrumentation. Bait & rigging station, built-in fish box, live bait wells w/aerator. Hard top; custom canvas; saltwater washdown sys., 195 gal. fuel cap. Enclosed head & more. Professionally maintained. Replacement cost in excess of $43,000; $32,000 Firm. 212-582-0610 Ask for Charlie.

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1973 25' LUHRS 318 Chrysler freshwater cooled; depth finder, VHF radio, 2 compasses, 2 batt.; plus accessories. Excl. cond. $8900. Days: 212-567-2333. Eves.: 212-882-7705.

WANTED: 17' - 18' AQUASPORT or Grady-White cuddy cabin type or similar type boat. Eves. 516-628-2255.

RENKEN 1980 20' BowRider, Deep V Hull, 140 FWC Volvo, I/O, extra prop. Si-Tex recorder, CB, compass, full C.C.P. Full canvas, breakaway trailer; new rollers, elec. winch, 20 ga. tank. Very economical. Good range; like new. $65000. 360-3756.

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MAKO 21, Evinrude 200—both 1978. Engine used only 2 yrs. & many parts replaced. Equipped w/power trim. Boat has fuel-saving Bennett trim tabs; built-in compass; bilge pump; bow cover; standing post. New controls installed during summer & new steering in November. Avail. w/wo full elec. & outriggers. Contact: Al Ristori, 201-334-8059. Boat in storage at Star Island Yacht Club, Montauk.

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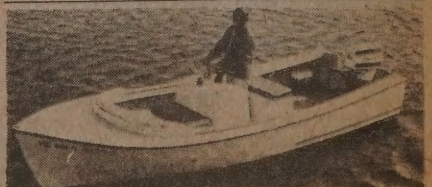
$999 Buys 16' Fiberglass Dory. BURCK INC., 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464; 212-885-1559.



1979 18' POINTER Center Console, 70 h.p. Evinrude, SST Prop., recorder, spray hood. All covers; extras; 100 hours on rig. $4995. 516-589-4552.

1980 MFG Morrison Duke Elite. 22' 3" Cream w/brown flake stripe, cuddy cabin, stereo, VHF, sink, Porta-Potty, diamond tuft interior, play pen, rugs. Full instrumentation; power steering, auto. bilge pump, 260 Merc. I/O. Full canvas. Compl. CG pkg., swim platforms, ski rings, swivel bucket seats, remote bow light. Everything on circuit breakers. Boat in showroom cond. $13,500. 475-4485 Days.

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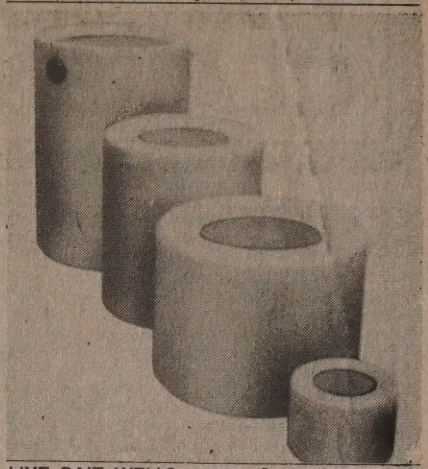

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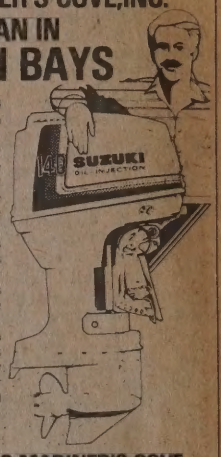

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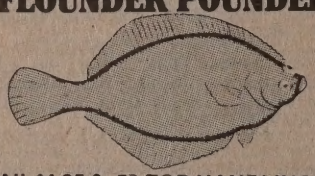

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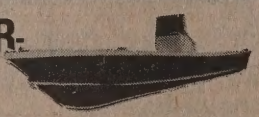

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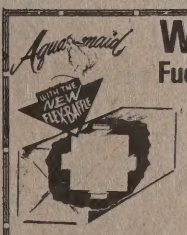

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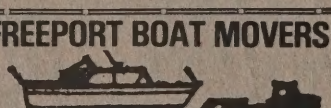

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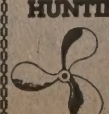

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